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Two terrorists freed after serving full prison terms

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah said two of the 17 terrorists convicted for bombing the US and French embassies in December 1983 have been released after completing five-year prison terms.

Talking to a number of newsmen currently visiting Kuwait to cover the 28th National Day celebrations, Sheikh Salem said the two convicts were set free "after having served their sentences in full."

He said the release had nothing to do with demands by radical organisations nor was it due to the ending of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner Al Jabriya last April.

Iran wants to make a fresh start with GCC

ABU DHABI, Feb 11, (Reuters): Iran's ambassador in the UAE said in remarks published today that Tehran wants to make a fresh start in relations with Gulf Co-operation Council states.

The GCC — generally backed Iraq during the Gulf war. Riyadh has no diplomatic ties with Iran since last April.

"Iran wants to open a new chapter with GCC states based on good neighbourliness and disregard of the past," Iranian envoy Mustafa Foumen Al Haeri was quoted as saying by Al Wahda newspaper.

Solo sailor

SANTIAGO, Chile, Feb 11, (AP): A solo sailor chasing a world record who had been reported missing Thursday night was spotted around noon yesterday battling a storm near the southern tip of South America, and plans were being made for his rescue, the Navy reported.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- پاکستان اور اسرائیل سے طیارے خریدے گا
- وزیر اعظم نے تعمیر کا چین میں شہزادہ استقبال
- شیخ سعد عراق کے دورے سے وطن واپس پہنچ گئے
- افغان شوری کے دوبارہ اجلاس کی تیاریاں
- نواز شریف اسلامی اتحاد کے صدر منتخب ہو گئے
- پاکستان میں میزائل کا دوسرا کامیاب تجربہ
- پاکستان ہم پر حملہ کرنے والا ہے، نجیب کا الزام

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light north-westerly wind changes to moderate south-easterly and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 3.56 am, 3.50 pm

Low water: 10.00 am, 10.50 pm

Sunrise: 6.31 am

Sunset: 5.34 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 9°C 48°F

Ahmad: 5°C 57°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 18°C 64°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 38 per cent

Ahmad: 67 per cent

Falaka: 75 per cent

Crown Prince returns from Iraq

Positive steps taken to solve border issue

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, who returned today from a visit to Iraq said that positive steps have been taken towards solving the issue of the international borders between the two brotherly countries — Kuwait and Iraq.

He said: "We agreed to follow up and settle the issue."

Sheikh Saad praised the positive attitude taken by President Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders towards strengthening ties.

Opportunity

"We are confident that the close relations and fruitful co-operation between Kuwait and Iraq will continue to develop and flourish," added Sheikh Saad.

The Kuwaiti leader said the talks in Baghdad also covered the

situation in the Gulf. "The two countries hold identical views concerning the importance of maintaining stability and security... and working jointly to shore up Arab solidarity," he said.

He added: "The visit was an opportunity to express to our brethren in Iraq our deep feelings over the ceasefire and peace in the region." He was referring to the UN-sponsored Aug 20 truce which ended eight years of hostilities between Iran and Iraq.

Sheikh Saad arrived in Baghdad Feb 6 for a three-day official visit, but stayed an extra three days after a personal request from Saddam.

Sheikh Saad expressed deep appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded him by Saddam and Vice-Chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim.

In a statement before leaving Baghdad Sheikh Saad said he



Sheikh Saad returned home yesterday to a warm welcome.

Pakistan again tests missile successfully

KARACHI, Feb 11, (Agencies): Pakistan said today it had tested a long-range surface-to-surface missile for the second time with complete success.

"The system worked perfectly, achieving the predicted range and accuracy," a government statement said without giving the missile's range.

It said the rocket was fired from a mobile launching pad at a site near Karachi.

Range

Army chief Mirza Aslam Beg first announced that Karachi was testing long-range rockets last Sunday. He said then that the missiles had a range of 300 km (185 miles) and 80 km (50 miles) and that they represented a landmark achievement because the missiles and their guidance systems were developed in Pakistan.

The rockets were named Hafiz-1 and Hafiz-2 (meaning deadly) after the sword of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

Pakistan plans to purchase 125 fighter jets from China and Australia as part of a major improvement of its Air Force, a newspaper reported today.

The Muslim newspaper, quoting unidentified sources, reported that Pakistan had reached an agreement with China to purchase 75 F-7 jets at a cost of about \$225 million. The F-7 is the Chinese version of the relatively old MIG-21.

The Pakistani Air Force also plans to purchase 50 second-hand French-made Mirage 111 jets from the Australian Air Force.

The report came as Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in China today for an official visit. Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke visited Pakistan this week, but no mention was made of any plane purchases.

Call for rapid transfer of power in Afghanistan

Benazir in China in first official visit abroad

BEIJING, Feb 11, (Agencies): Pakistan's Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, said today she wanted power in Afghanistan to be handed over rapidly to a broadly based interim government.

At a banquet where Chinese Premier Li Peng welcomed her to Beijing on her first official trip abroad as premier, she said the Soviet withdrawal showed "the futility of foreign military intervention."

Li Peng praised Pakistan's role in the Afghan conflict and said China also hoped for a "broadly based coalition government acceptable to all concerned."

Position

Benazir is in China for talks expected to seek a joint strategy on Afghanistan, where both countries have been major backers of rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government.

"The principal position of Pakistan, China and the overwhelming majority of the international community has been

fully vindicated," she said. "Power must be speedily transferred to a broad-based interim government in Kabul."

Benazir arrived earlier today and told journalists at Beijing airport the three-day official visit was also "a sentimental one."

She last visited China in the 1970s when her late father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was Pakistan's leader.

"Of course there have been changes since then, and I want to re-familiarise myself. The friendship (between Pakistan and China) has stood the test of time," Benazir said.

Significance

The two countries' close relationship appears not to have been affected by the death of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq in an air crash last year and the subsequent election of Benazir, his political foe.

The Pakistani leader, elected in November as the first woman



Benazir (left) and Li Peng toasting the good relations between their two countries during a banquet in Beijing. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nablus calm ends as rally turns violent

NABLUS, West Bank, Feb 11, (Reuters): A peaceful march by 1,000 flag-waving Palestinians erupted into a clash with Israeli soldiers today, ending weeks of calm in this town.

Soldiers opened fire when protesters ran off into market alleys and began throwing stones, witnesses said. Hospital officials said one protester was shot and wounded and three injured by beatings.

The march marked the seventh anniversary of the Palestine Communist Party in the occupied territories. It was the first time for two weeks that troops in Nablus had opened fire.

In Ramallah, residents continued a spontaneous commercial strike for the third day in protest against the killing in Megiddo prison this week of a Palestinian from the area. Soldiers had opened fire during a jailhouse riot.

Curfews

The Army imposed curfews on 170,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip early today. Palestinian witnesses said troops were rounding up suspected activists and forcing residents to erase nationalist slogans from their walls.

In Palm Beach, Florida, US Vice-President Dan Quayle said yesterday that Israel remains the most reliable US ally in the world, but it must recognise that the killing of Palestinian civilians in West Bank and Gaza Strip is "clearly unacceptable."

Tour

The uprising by Palestinians in those regions "has resulted in nearly 400 Palestinians being killed and many more injured," Quayle said in a speech for a conference.

Three European Economic Community foreign ministers, trying to spur Middle East peace efforts, began a three-nation Arab tour in Jordan today.

The trio of present, past and future holders of the community's rotating presidency will also visit Syria and Egypt as part of plans to consult all sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Gulf peace talks to resume in March

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 11, (Reuters): The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq agreed here yesterday to hold a new round of Gulf peace talks in New York in the latter part of March, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced.

He made the announcement after meeting here jointly with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

The two ministers have held two rounds of substantive talks in Geneva since the Gulf ceasefire went into force last Aug 20 but made little progress in implementing other parts of a Security Council peace plan contained in Resolution 598.

Yesterday's meeting was their first face-to-face encounter since the last round of Geneva negotiations adjourned on Nov 11.

Lower

Perez de Cuellar said the ministerial meeting would be preceded by lower level preparatory talks later this month.

"I am glad to inform you that the two foreign ministers have agreed to my convening a joint ministerial meeting in the latter part of March," Perez de Cuellar told reporters, reading from a prepared statement.

"The talks will be conducted at a location not far from this

Studio owner held for fire deaths in India

NEW DELHI, Feb 11, (Agencies): Police yesterday arrested the owner of a film studio in southern India where a devastating fire burned to death 48 people working on a television serial, United News of India said.

Naga Kumar, owner of the Premier Studios near Bangalore where the blaze occurred late Wednesday, was arrested on charges of negligence and violation of the Karnataka state Fire Force Act, UNL said.

Bombay's huge film industry shut down today to mourn the actors and technicians killed in the studio fire.

All 16 film centres and scores of related businesses were deserted in the studio city of north Bombay where 300,000 people are employed.

At the city's airport, grief-stricken relatives gathered to receive the bodies of 27 of the victims flown in from Karnataka.

Shevardnadze to visit Kuwait shortly

MOSCOW, Feb 11, (Agencies): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Kuwait soon as part of a five-nation Middle East tour. He will also visit Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq, diplomatic sources said today.

The sources said Shevardnadze's talks in the five Arab countries would deal with means of settling the Middle East problem and convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The future of Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the conflict in the Gulf will also be discussed, the sources said.

Moscow favours an international Middle East peace conference, an idea Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Syria along with the PLO have been actively promoting.

Iranian vow to achieve economic prosperity

NICOSIA, Feb 11, (Agencies): Iran put its first domestically-manufactured helicopter on show today at a rally winding up 10 days of celebrations marking the anniversary of its 1979 Islamic revolution, Tehran Radio reported.

The helicopter flew over a crowd of millions of people gathered in Tehran's Azadi (freedom) Square, dropping flowers onto the people, said the radio.

President Ali Khamenei pledged to the crowd that the leadership would continue to adhere to the revolution's Islamic principles and independent foreign policy.

A first group of political prisoners freed under an amnesty ordered on Wednesday by spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini took part in rallies held across the country, the radio said.

Khamenei said: "We should consider the next 10 years a decade of economic construction and, God willing, this country will have a profile worthy of Islam and the revolution in 10 years' time."

In a reference to last August's ceasefire which halted fighting in the eight-year war with Iraq, he said: "You should work for reconstruction with the same spirit that you fought on the battlefields."

Khamenei said Iran would not submit to bullying by big powers but, to achieve economic prosperity, was willing to co-operate with countries which had no expansionist designs.

Afghan council to meet with or without Iran-based groups

ISLAMABAD, Feb 11, (Agencies): Afghan rebel leaders today revived prospects for an interim government to run the country after the Soviet Union withdraws, saying they will proceed with or without participation of Iran-based guerrilla groups.

A consultative council, or shura, aimed at forming such a government was indefinitely postponed yesterday when moderates and fundamentalists among the mujahedeen failed to agree on how many seats the Iran-based groups should be accorded.

But Abdurrah Rasul Sayyaf, spokesman for the shura, told a news conference today the meeting would resume "in the coming one or two days" with or without the eight mujahedeen groups from the Shiites based in Iran.

Meanwhile, President Najibullah accused Pakistan today of planning to invade Afghanistan with the intention of annexing his country.

In a speech broadcast on television and radio, he said Pakistani military units were massing on the border near the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad.

"Undoubtedly they are preparing to attack Jalalabad," he said.

With only four days left for the final withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the rebels are under pressure to have an interim government ready to take over after the widely expected collapse of the Moscow-backed Kabul administration.

A broadly based interim government is considered essential if there is to be a speedy, peaceful solution once the last of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops have left by Wednesday.

Pakistan would be invited.

Khalili said he would insist on implementation of an agreement on participation he signed in Tehran last weekend with Peshawar alliance chairman Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, a moderate.

"If they don't accept this agreement, we will not attend their shura or be in the interim government. We will oppose whatever decision they reach," Khalili said, brandishing a copy of the accord that promised him 100 seats at the shura and seven cabinet posts in a 28-member interim government.

Meanwhile, six hundred trucks bearing vital food and fuel rolled into Kabul today.

An Ethiopian Airlines jet emblazoned with "UN" on one side brought 30 tons of wheat and dried milk to Kabul's neediest residents yesterday, beginning a UN airlift after a two-day delay.

President Bush wants to continue sending military aid to rebels in Afghanistan, apparently until the Soviet-backed government in Kabul is defeated, the New York Times reported today.

KGB ex-chief demands action against anti-communist groups

MOSCOW, Feb 11, (Reuters): A senior Kremlin leader has demanded action against what he called "anti-socialist elements" seeking to set up organisations opposing the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

Viktor Chebrikov, former chief of the KGB security police and now head of a party Politburo commission on law reform, made his remarks during a visit to Moldova where there has been an upsurge recently in nationalist feeling.

"There exist anti-socialist elements which attempt to create political structures opposing the Soviet Communist Party. Such attempts cannot be overlooked," he told a Moldavian Party meeting, according to the Tass news agency.

Influence

Chebrikov, whose earlier career was closely linked to now disgraced former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, is generally regarded as a conservative in the Politburo and not fully in tune with the reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev.

Although he was moved from the KGB last year, his new role

gives him considerable influence over the shape of new laws on human rights and the reform of the legal system and law enforcement.

Phrasing of his remarks in Kishinev, the Moldavia capital, left little doubt that he was strongly opposed to legalising many of the political groups springing up across the country.

He said it was essential to protect Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform programme "against irresponsibility and extremism, against demagoguery and adventurism, everything that is extraneous to it."

Perestroika, he declared, "is considerably harmed by various informal associations. Being influenced by extremist-minded leaders, they take the road of anti-social illegal activity."

Rebuff

Chebrikov said it was essential "to rebuff the leaders of those associations that strive to take the masses onto the road of anarchy and lawlessness, of destabilising the situation, onto the road of creating legal and illegal structures opposing the party."

His remarks appeared aimed not only at groups like the

Democratic Union which describes itself as a political party in opposition to the Communist Party but also at Popular Front groups that have emerged in many of the country's 15 republics.

The fronts have won widespread popular support in the Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Chebrikov went to Estonia late last year to study the situation there.

In next month's elections to a new-style Soviet Parliament promoted by Gorbachev as the path to bringing democracy to the Soviet Union, communist candidates are certain to have to fight for seats with representatives of other groups in some areas.

In the Baltic states, candidates of the local popular fronts as well as ecologists are likely to stand against Republican Party representatives — although all three parties are headed by reform-minded leaders.

Chebrikov's comments also indicated clearly that he was strongly opposed to any suggestion of the creation of a multi-party system in the Soviet Union, a topic increasingly widely discussed at political meetings.



Manley during his first press conference after the elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

Manley promises close ties with Washington

KINGSTON, Feb 11, (Reuters): Michael Manley, a onetime socialist firebrand who returned to the prime ministry with a sweeping electoral victory, promised to seek close ties with the United States and honour payments on Jamaica's foreign debt.

Manley, who as prime minister from 1972-80 alienated the United States by nationalising businesses, courting Cuban leader Fidel Castro and inviting Cuban advisers to Jamaica, said he would travel soon to Washington for a meeting with President Bush.

The prime minister-elect said he had learned some hard lessons during his previous eight years in power and had no intention of repeating his mistakes.

Hoped

"The first thing you learn is that getting into any kind of squabble doesn't help," he told a packed news conference.

Manley said he hoped to work closely with the Bush administration on such problems as combating the drug trade, improving upon the Reagan administration's Caribbean basin initiative aid plan and seeking global solutions to the foreign debt crisis.

A frequent and vocal critic of the International Monetary

Fund, Manley said that when he visits Washington, he will meet the directors of the IMF, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

He said he planned to take no radical steps regarding Jamaica's \$4 billion foreign debt, much of which is held by international lending agencies.

Violence

"We absolutely respect our obligation on the debt. We will not in any circumstances walk away from debt," said Manley, who is to be sworn in on Monday.

Manley and his Peoples National Party won 57 per cent of the vote on Thursday, easily defeating conservative Prime Minister Edward Seaga after a campaign marked by violence in which 13 people died and more than 100 were wounded.

With votes from some constituencies still being counted yesterday, an unofficial poll in the daily Gleaner newspaper gave Manley 44 of 60 parliament seats.

Some 10,000 police and Army troops were deployed throughout the day to prevent a recurrence of the violence of the 1980 election, when more than 750 people died.

Taiwan fighter crashes in China

BEIJING, Feb 11, (AP): An F-5E jet fighter of the nationalist Chinese Air Force crashed at an airport in Communist China today after the pilot ran out of gas and parachuted to safety, state-run radio said.

The brief radio report did not clarify whether the pilot was attempting to defect to China or whether there were any casualties. The report said he was not injured seriously but that the plane was mangled.

Asylum

Air Force officials in Taiwan said the fighter lost contact with a radio tower at Chihhang air base, 300 kilometres (180 miles) southeast of Taipei, at 9:30 am (0130 GMT).

The Chinese report said the pilot ran out of gas and parachuted safely to earth over Canton's (Guangzhou's) airport in the southern province of Guangdong about an hour later.

Military officials in Taiwan identified the pilot as Lieut Col Lin Hsien-Shun, 35.

More than a dozen nationalist Air Force officers have sought asylum in China since 1949 when the nationalists fled to Taiwan after losing a civil war to the communist forces on the mainland.

The latest was Li Dawei, who defected in 1983 in a trainer plane. Li received 150,000 yuan (\$40,000) plus use of a chauffeured limousine.

Bush promises swift US action on acid rain

OTTAWA, Feb 11, (AP): George Bush has wrapped up his first trip out of the country as President of the United States and expressed hopes that he satisfied Canada's prime minister of a new US commitment to reduce acid rain.

Declaring a determination to see that the US-Canadian friendship "becomes even stronger," Bush promised yesterday that there would be speedy American action on curbing the border-crossing pollution.

Curbed

Bush set no specific timetable in talks with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on when acid rain-causing emissions from US plants would be curbed.

But, he said he was committed to "move as fast as possible" on the new initiatives he outlined on Thursday in his speech to Congress.

Later, aboard Air Force One en route to Maine, Bush said that he felt that Mulroney, in their talks, "was reasonably well-satisfied" with the US statements about acid rain.

"I mean, they probably are a little ahead of us in terms of where they wish we were right now in terms of bilateral negotiations. Generally speaking, there was no tension over that," Bush said. "It was very good in that sense."

Praised

In Ottawa, Mulroney praised Bush's initiative — including a promise to spend \$2.5 billion toward solving the problem, vowing to propose legislation setting new limits on smokestack emissions, and negotiating an agreement with Canada on specific acid rain levels.

"This is real progress," Mulroney said. "And while I suppose I like a lot of people, would like it done tomorrow in this area, I know it's not going to happen. But this represents some very measurable progress."

Both the Prime Minister and the new President proclaimed relations between the two nations good and getting better.

Bush said he selected Canada for his first presidential trip outside US borders to "symbolize the importance that we place on the relationship with Canada. We're each other's largest trading partners. We are friends. We share a long peaceful border and we have many common interests."

Soviet embassy official defects to US

BANGKOK, Feb 11, (Reuters): Two Soviet citizens have defected to the United States in Bangkok, a US spokesman said today.

The Bangkok Post newspaper said they were the embassy medical officer and his wife.

A US embassy spokesman said only that two Soviet citizens had been granted asylum and had left for the United States this morning. There was no immediate comment from the Soviet embassy.

Assigned

The Bangkok Post named the two as Vladimir Zhila, 37, a doctor, and his wife Olga, 30, and said they had arrived in Bangkok last year. It said Zhila was assigned as a medical officer for embassy staff.

It quoted Thai police as saying they were going for a medical check-up.

The Soviet-made Volga car they used was later found in the car park of a hotel in the same road as the US embassy.

In January, the United States gave asylum to a Soviet seaman who jumped ship in Bangkok.

Safety checks

LONDON, Feb 11, (KUNA): British Airways today gave the all-clear to its fleet of Concordes after carrying out safety checks following the discovery of small cracks in the roof structure of one of the supersonic jets.

The tiny hairline cracks found were immediately reported to the British Civil Aviation Authority, which ordered checks on five of BA's seven aircraft.

BA said it had carried out the checks on all the Concordes and had given them the all-clear.

Imposter

BOSTON, Feb 11, (AP): Robert Hunt scoured some kitchen tiles and told his wife they fell off the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle.

That, police say, was just one prop in Hunt's pose as an astronaut during a period of make-believe that carried him through several states, speaking engagements and marriages.



Ron Brown becomes first black to head US party

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (Reuters): Lawyer Ron Brown became the first black chairman of a major American political party yesterday, taking charge of the Democrats and saying he hopes to be judged not as a black but as a leader who wins elections.

"I did not run on the basis of race, but I will not run away from it," Brown, 47, a former political adviser to both Jesse Jackson and Senator Edward Kennedy, said shortly after his elections by acclamation of the Democratic national committee.

Backing his pledge quickly with a two-fronted attack on President Bush and new Republican efforts to woo traditionally Democratic black voters, Brown added:

"I ask America to do as you have done. I ask America to set (racial) labels aside — and I know America will do so."

"I promise you my chairmanship will not be about race. It will be about the races we will win over the next few years."

Brown has pledged he will run the party without favour to any particular faction and independent of his old mentors — most recently Jackson, the black civil rights leader and presidential nomination contender of 1984 and 1988, and before that Kennedy, the senator from Massachusetts.

"Most Democrats accept his assurances. The question raised by most critics is whether it will prove wise for the party to make so prominent a liberal its leader after it has repeatedly been thrashed in presidential election runs behind such liberals as 1988 nominee Michael Dukakis."

At a party leadership meeting, Brown was elected unopposed to a four-year term to succeed retiring chairman Paul Kirk. He swung right into an attack on Republicans who have won five of the last six presidential elections.

Brown blamed Bush and his party for problems, including those of savings and loan institutions, education and ethics.

"You know these Republicans amuse me," he said. "Suddenly, after a year of questioning our party's patriotism, George Bush is promoting all our policies, and Lee Atwater is pandering to all our constituencies."

The last reference was to Republican Party chairman Atwater who is wooing traditional Democratic constituencies of blacks and minorities to join Republican ranks.

In his acceptance speech, Brown compared himself to Democratic hero John Kennedy who overcame prejudice in 1960 to become the first President who was a Catholic, and asked not to be judged solely as a black.

He told Reuters in an interview his goal was to unify the party and return the White House to the Democrats.

Flight recorders recovered

SANTA MARIA, Azores, Feb 11, (Reuters): Investigators searching for clues to why an airliner packed with Italian tourists hit an Azores mountain killing all 144 people on board have discovered both flight recorders.

The second recorder was found last night as bodies of the victims were due to be flown home on an Italian military transport plane.

"It was vital that the recorder was found," an airport official said.

The first was recovered on Thursday, a day after the crash, and both boxes — containing instrument readings and tapes of the last flight deck conversations — will be taken to Lisbon or Washington for examination, aviation sources said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuclear test

YUCCA FLAT, Nevada, Feb 11, (UPI): Scientists successfully detonated a nuclear weapon 1,650 feet (500 m) beneath the Nevada desert yesterday in the first announced US nuclear test of 1989.

Officials at the National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado, said the detonation measured 5.2 on the Richter scale, equivalent to a moderate earthquake. However, there were no reports of earth motion felt by occupants of high-rise buildings 80 miles (130 km) away in Las Vegas, a government spokesman said.

Captain freed

NAIROBI, Feb 11, (Reuters): Kenya's High Court has ordered the release from jail of a Palestinian ship captain and three chief officers convicted in December of tossing a stowaway overboard.

Captain Syed Najam Hameed of the MV Dang Muniri and his colleagues had denied throwing Mozambican Anthony Lugendo off the ship while it was at anchor off the port of Mombasa.

They were jailed for four months but their convictions were overturned at an appeal hearing yesterday.

Court's denial

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (AP): A federal appeals court panel yesterday denied, for the second time in two days, a Justice Department request to block the Iran-Contra trial of fired White House aide Oliver North.

The three-member panel of judges rejected the department's request for reconsideration. The judges said the government's only course if it wants to stop the trial is to take the drastic step of prohibiting the disclosure of classified information.

Hays, 77, dies

BELMONT, Ohio, Feb 11, (AP): Wayne L. Hays, a 14-term congressman whose affair with House clerk Elizabeth Ray in 1976 touched off a payroll scandal in the nation's capital, died yesterday. He was 77.

Jean Walker, a family friend, said Hays died at Wheeling Hospital in Wheeling, West Virginia, across the Ohio River from the eastern Ohio town of Belmont.

Walker spoke by telephone from the Hays residence and said Hays apparently suffered a heart attack about noon yesterday as he read a newspaper at his home.

Food poisoning

LONDON, Feb 11, (UPI): Thousands of chickens will be slaughtered to control an outbreak of salmonella that poisoned 250,000 Britons last year and caused egg sales to plummet in a nation known for beginning each day with bacon and eggs, the government said yesterday.

Health officials also warned pregnant women against eating soft cheeses, which can be contaminated by listeria, a bacteria that has been blamed for miscarriages and still births.

The government also said those with weakened immune systems, including cancer and AIDS sufferers, should not eat cheeses such as brie, camembert and goat's cheese.

Film festival

BERLIN, Feb 11, (AP): The 1989 Berlin International Film Festival opened on Friday with a look back 50 years to a conflict that divided Europe and engulfed the world.

West Berlin Culture Senator Volker Hassemer, in opening the festival, praised the German Kinemathek foundation for preparing the memorial series "Europa 1939," comprising of 50 films produced that year in 10 European countries.

Israel in secret contact with PLO

ROME, Feb 11, (Reuters): Yasser Arafat said in a newspaper interview today that Israeli authorities were preparing new attacks against the Palestinian leadership despite a series of secret contacts with the PLO.

"They (the Israelis) send us many messages under the table, through our representatives in the occupied territories, through other channels in Europe and elsewhere," the PLO chairman was quoted as saying in the II Messaggero newspaper.

Asked whether he was referring to the Israeli government, which officially refuses to talk with the PLO, he said: "I'm speaking of Israeli authorities."

Information

Arafat, who was interviewed in Tunis where the PLO has its headquarters, did not elaborate. He said he had information that the Israeli cabinet had agreed on a new campaign against the Palestinians.

Castrol

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PRESENTS



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For more details contact

Miss Cynthia of Kuwait Continental Hotel, Tel: 2527300 8.30 am to 5.30 pm
or Miss Lorna D'Souza of Kuwait India International Exchange Co.

Tel. 2422740/2422699

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Turkey may abolish anti-communist legislation

ANKARA, Feb 11, (Reuters): Turkey is considering cutting the time prisoners can be held without trial as a step towards possible scrapping of strict anti-communism laws, official sources said.

"There are intensive contacts between the justice, interior and foreign ministers. They hope to have concrete proposals for the government this year," one source said.

"Initially the aim is for shorter prison terms, with the eventual long-term aim of abolishing (anti-communist) laws 141 and 142," the source added.

They said the government planned to reduce from 15 days the period detainees can be held without charge, but they could not say what the new period was likely to be.

Articles 141 and 142 and the detention time have been major causes of foreign criticism of human rights since the 1980 coup that quelled extremist political violence.

Penalties

Western diplomats said reducing penal code penalties would help to assuage criticism while Turkey was seeking full membership of the European Economic Community.

Articles 141 and 142 have been under scrutiny since mid-1987 when the trial started of communist leaders Haydar Kutlu and Nihat Sargin, accused of anti-state activities.

The articles provide for jail terms or the death penalty for spreading communist propaganda and waging class struggle. No death sentence for any offence has been carried out in Turkey for four years.

Communism has been banned since 1926, three years after the Turkish republic was founded following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

President Kenan Evren, who as a general led the 1980 coup, has said a time will come when a Communist Party will be founded in Turkey, a NATO member bordering the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Officials are initially likely to recommend that sentences for communist activity and religious evangelism should be halved, the sources said.

Foreign group to monitor elections in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Feb 11, (Reuters): The government said today an international group will observe Sri Lanka's upcoming general elections amid opposition charges the poll will not be free and fair.

Police said three small bombs were hurled at a ruling United National Party rally in Colombo last night, killing a child and wounding several other people in the latest incident leading up to Wednesday's election.

The Foreign Ministry said 18 people from Britain, the Non-Aligned Movement and South Asian nations would arrive on Sunday to observe the poll.

The group was assembled in response to demands from the opposition, who have charged that the violent situation would benefit the ruling party.

"The experience of the last presidential election and the emerging pattern of threats, intimidation, killings and the open violation of election laws give us cause for serious concern as to whether a free and fair gen-

eral election can be held," the main opposition group, the Freedom Party, told the elections commissioner.

Freedom Party leader and former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike told reporters yesterday there had been 1,100 political and other murders since the presidential poll on Dec 19.

Bandaranaike, 72, who survived an assassination attempt last Sunday during an election rally, said seven of her party's candidates had been murdered and 41 supporters killed since campaigning began on Jan 6.

She said "an environment of terror and violence is being systematically built up to bring about a low voter turnout" and suggested that would benefit the United National Party.

A Defence Ministry official denied any state agencies were involved in deliberate political killings. The ministry has said that "subversives and other anti-social groups were masquerading in military-type uniforms."

Security authorities have blamed the leftwing People's Liberation Front for most of the violence.

Since early January when campaigning started for next Wednesday's parliamentary elections, more than 1,000 people — including 13 candidates — have been killed. Both Sinhalese extremists and Tamil rebels oppose the government and have vowed to prevent it from holding elections.

A 12-year-old girl, Udanee Liyanaga, was killed when a bomb was hurled at a political rally last night in Borella on the eastern outskirts of Colombo, police said.

The bomb exploded as supporters of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party were lighting fireworks at the end of the rally. Twenty people, including five young girls, were injured.

Police blamed that attack and a series of shootings throughout the Sinhalese heartland on the People's Liberation Front.

3,400-year-old statues unearthed

CAIRO, Feb 11, (UPI): Egyptian archaeologists made one of this century's most significant archaeological finds, unearthing five statues found at the temple of Luxor in southern Egypt, the scientists said.

The archaeologists said the statues were found this week at the temple on the east bank of the Nile, 480 km south of Cairo. They said the statues were in good condition and are about 3,400 years old.

One of the statues, nearly all of which are life-size, is of King Amenophis III (1408-1372 B.C.), father of Akhnaton (1372-1354 B.C.) and one of the most powerful pharaohs of the new kingdom.

The statue, believed to be the most important among the five, depicts Amenophis III wearing a crown of unified Egypt with a cobra on his forehead, apparently made of black granite.

Marcos' condition worsens

HONOLULU, Feb 11, (AP): Ferdinand Marcos condition worsened to critical when he began running a fever, a hospital official said.

Marcos, 71, was in critical but stable condition last night, said Norma Kop, a spokeswoman for St Francis Medical Centre. He had been in guarded condition earlier in the day.

Marcos remained in the hospital's intensive care unit and was still breathing with the aid of a respirator, Kop said.

Marcos has been in the hospital for nearly a month with pneumonia and bronchial asthma.

Marcos spokesman Gemmo Trinidad said Marcos' worsened condition "means there is infection again."

"I would suspect it's the lungs because of the tracheostomy," Trinidad said. In a tracheostomy, a surgical incision is made in the trachea to create an artificial breathing hole.

Marcos underwent the emergency surgery on Feb 1 to relieve a buildup of fluid in his lungs.

Another Hindu hanged in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Feb 11, (AP): A Hindu labourer was found hanged to death early today, the 14th person killed since Sikh militants vowed to avenge the executions of two Sikhs convicted in the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, police said.

Villagers found the latest victim hanging from a tree at Singh Pura, about 80 kilometres south-west of Chandigarh, a Punjab police spokesman said.

The man was identified as Nand Lal, according to the spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

He said no group had claimed responsibility for the hanging.

Some of the earlier victims' bodies were found with notes claiming responsibility in the names of Sikh separatist groups. The killings started when two Sikhs were hanged on Jan 6.

Radical Sikhs have killed more than 230 people in Punjab state so far this year in their bloody war.

Radicals hold anti-monarchy rally in Tokyo

TOKYO, Feb 11, (AP): Nearly 1,000 leftist radicals shouting anti-monarchy slogans marched through the streets of downtown Tokyo today, and five of them were arrested, police reported.

The five were arrested for obstructing police, according to a metropolitan police department official. Though several scuffles broke out, he said there were no reports of serious injury.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, refused to divulge the number of police mobilised, but said 940 radicals participated in the march, began at a park in Shiba, central Tokyo.

Chanting "fight the emperor" and "the final battle," the radicals were surrounded by plainclothes police and riot control personnel wearing helmets and carrying metal shields.

Joining in the demonstration were three major radical groups: the Chukaku-Ha, or Middle Core faction; the Kaibo-Ha, or Liberation faction; and the Senki-Ha, or Battle Flag faction.

Hezbollah and Amal swap hostages

BEIRUT, Feb 11, (AP): Rival Shiite Muslim factions exchanged 46 hostages they had captured in bloody clashes last month, as the Progressive Socialist Party buried a senior Druze officer slain in an ambush a day earlier.

In East Beirut, militiamen of the right-wing Lebanese Forces and Army soldiers clashed in a two-hour firefight. Police said a militiaman and a private were wounded.

The swap of hostages between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, and the mainstream Amal militia, which is backed by Syria, was part of an accord reached in Damascus, Syria, on Jan 29.

The accord, mediated by Syrian and Iranian officials, halted an eight-month power struggle and intermittent clashes in which 500 people were killed and 1,300 wounded in Beirut and south Lebanon.

Amal freed 33 detainees in Zefna, its security headquarters some 12 kilometres southeast of

the port city of Sidon. Hezbollah released 13 Amal fighters in Ein Bouwar, a few miles further south of Sidon, 40 kilometres from Beirut, police said.

Reporters who saw the freed men said they all appeared to be in good health, but their heads were shaven.

Amal charged Hezbollah failed to free one of its senior officers, Abbas Nasser, and said it would hold on to three Hezbollah detainees until he is released. There was no comment from Hezbollah on the statement.

The swap of hostages was expected to further ease the tensions in the Shiite community of one million, the largest single sect in Lebanon.

Druze warlord Walid Jumblatt led the crowds of mourners at the funeral of his aide, Anwar Fatayeri, 43, who was slain Thursday on a road linking the Chouf mountain villages of Mnassif and Jahalieh, some 14 kms southeast of Beirut.

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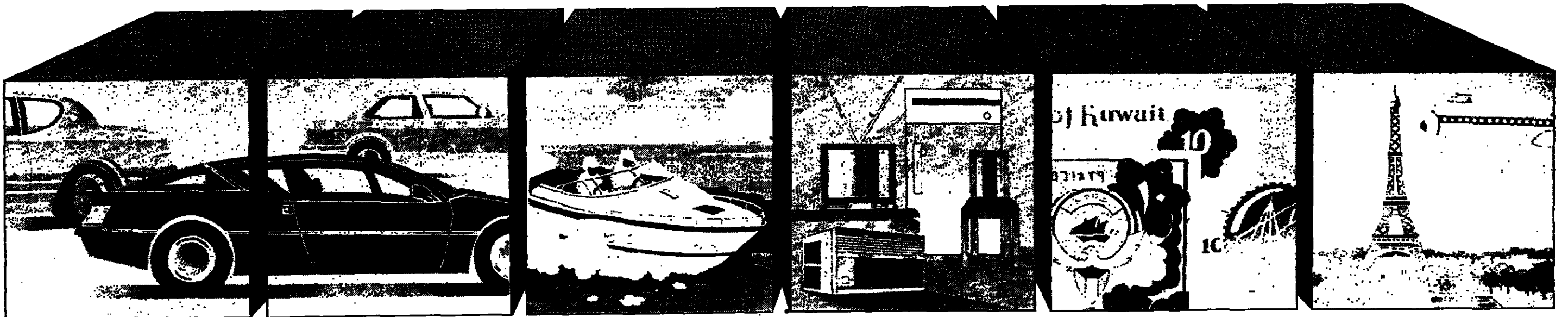
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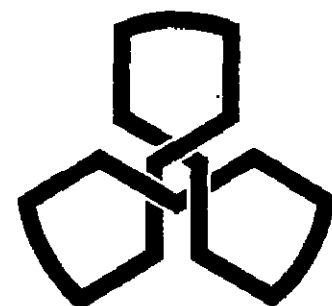
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Intensive English course for border centre employees

By Salem Al Wawan

KUWAIT'S Border Centre employees of the Ministry of Interior will participate in several courses in the English language, a security source has said.

In an interview, the source said that this step fell within the framework of a comprehensive development aimed at upgrading and modernising the ministry's performance.

Employees to be involved in such courses will be subjected to intensified studies to prepare them to speak, read and write English fluently.

A special budget has been allocated to cover costs of the courses which are scheduled to take place at the Police College in co-operation with Kuwait University, the source added.

Sharhan to visit New Delhi today

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): Minister of Communications Abdullah Abdul Mohsen Al Sharhan will pay an official five-day visit to New Delhi tomorrow for talks with his Indian counterpart on boosting co-operation between the two countries.

During the visit, Sharhan will hold talks with state minister for telecommunications affairs on means of upgrading telecommunications co-operation.

Sharhan will later fly to Singapore for participation in the 1989 conference for Asian communications.

Bishara to meet new diplomats

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Yaqoob Bishara will meet here tomorrow with a number of newly appointed diplomats in Kuwait.

Bishara, during the meeting, which will take place at the Foreign Ministry, is scheduled to brief the diplomats on council activities and review its achievements at the political, economic, cultural, and social levels, in addition to the efforts exerted by the GCC towards Arab and Islamic issues.

Girls symposium

ABDUL RAHMAN Al Mazroui, assistant under-secretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has stressed the importance of consolidating GCC youth ties.

He said that based on this concept, Kuwait will participate in the activities of the Third Girls Symposium currently in progress in the UAE.

The symposium, which began yesterday will continue until Feb 14.

Mazroui said that the recommendations adopted at the First Girls Symposium held in Oman in 1983 stressed the need for establishing clubs for girls. Members deciding to enroll in this club will have to undergo a prequalifying process. He added that a vital role can be played by girls in contribution to private projects.

Dust pollution very high in Kuwait, says official

DR Mishal Al Mishan from the Environment Protection Council speaking at a recently organised seminar by Kuwait Municipality on the Cleanliness Law stressed the importance of preserving the Kuwaiti environment from waste and pollution.

He added that Kuwait was exposed to a high proportion of dust (about 930 per cent) which was not in keeping with the permissible level. A study conducted in 1982 showed that the dust fall-out at Shamiya area amounted to 519 micrograms for each sq.



HH the Amir yesterday received Board Chairwoman of Kuwait Women's Cultural and Social Society Loutous Al Qatami accompanied by the society's board of directors. The group presented to HH a gift on the occasion of the Society's 25th anniversary.

London based weekly praises Sabah's role in league committee

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): A London-based Arabic weekly has hailed the role played by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed in the Arab League's six-man committee set up to try to find a solution to Lebanon's problem.

"Al Tadamon" was optimistic that the committee would succeed due to the special consideration Kuwait has had among the parties to the Lebanese conflict.

"Sheikh Sabah is a veteran diplomat and decision maker. History did not show that Sheikh Sabah had ever angered this party or that or that he had registered concessions to one side at

the expense of the other," it said. "Al Tadamon" described Sheikh Sabah's mission as a salvation by a healthy Gulf democracy to a Mediterranean one which needs someone to take it to the intensive care unit and cares for it for some time.

"Kuwaiti diplomacy is capable of finding means to solve the Lebanese crisis and above all it is acceptable to Arab politics. Its strong relations with the parties to the Lebanese conflict avails it the opportunity which no one else can have," the weekly said.

It said in addition to that fact there is Gulf and Egyptian support to the Kuwaiti role as well as the blessings of the superpowers.

Mine experts to meet in Kuwait February 27

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): Assistant Executive Secretary of the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) Dr Badriya Al Awadi was today quoted as saying that mine experts are due to hold a meeting here Feb 27-28.

A local daily quoted her as saying that cleaning the Gulf waters of mines depends on the signing of a peace agreement between Iraq and Iran.

She said international water lanes in the Gulf were clear of

mines thanks to the efforts of the superpowers "but the danger lies in the presence of some mines planted by the belligerents in their territorial waters."

"The organisation has not yet received maps locating those mines or their pingers. This could endanger navigation if they drifted to regional or international waters," she added.

About 500 ships were hit by mines during the eight-year Gulf war of which 25 capsized.

Kuwait Sea Sports Club to celebrate National Day

KUWAIT Sea Sports Club has organised various activities to celebrate National Day.

A bazaar will be opened Feb 22 which will contain miniature models of old Kuwaiti shops. It will also offer national dishes and will be open until the end of the month.

The club will also organise a

folklore festival on the 23rd, where a number of national bands will participate.

An entertainment programme for families will also be held on Feb 25, in the club. This programme will include games for children, competitions and sport shows.

Some children have begun to inhale typewriter correction fluid

Majed warns of drug addiction in Kuwait

HEAD of the Interpol office in Kuwait, Hamad Al Majed warned of the dangerous consequences that drug addiction could cause in Kuwait in the future if firm measures to curb it are not taken immediately.

He said: "Although drug addiction is presently not a problem in Kuwait, if well studied plans are not made to confront drugs and its spread, the scenario may dramatically change." If this materialises, the problem will cause serious consequences to the whole society, he added.

Solutions

Although the problem is receiving wide attention from officials in Kuwait, speedy scientific solutions must be made. Studies should be undertaken to determine the deep roots of addiction as a phenomenon by evaluating its dimensions. Majed called upon the media to educate people on the serious consequences of drug addiction.

Addiction must be countered by all available means, especially by enlightening people, particularly students. Such efforts must be directed towards students in the higher secondary and university stages. He proposed the formation of committees comprising teachers, religious men, doctors, parents, legal personnel and others, who should hold seminars and lectures aimed at explaining the hazards of drugs.



Hamad Al Majed

Majed said that Interpol experts extensive efforts in combatting drug trafficking all over the world. In Kuwait, Interpol co-operates with the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in fighting drugs and narcotics sales and smuggling. Interpol also distributes publications to police authorities outlining the modus-operandi utilised by drug smugglers, provides names and identities of persons suspected of being involved in drug trafficking and many other important issues including vital exchange of information.

In a related development, doctors in Kuwait have cautioned society and officials on the widespread use of new methods of

drug addiction — specially among young students.

Head of the Pharmacy and Poisonous Materials Department at Amiri Hospital, Dr Essam Al Bahow said that youths have begun using many strange methods such as glues and medicines. Though, basically not drugs, the use of these have caused poisoning on several occasions.

Methods

Bahow said that an example is the use of a medicine called Artane — basically used for the treatment of Parkinson's disease. He added that some youths started smelling some volatile materials that are used for industrial purposes like benzene, acetone of the glue material known as Patter. The strongest material to be used either orally or by sniffing is the Typewriter correction fluid, TCF. He said that the Poison Department at the Amiri Hospital is undertaking studies in this respect.

Many cases of poisoning and even death have been reported among youths because of the wrong use of TCF. Bahow said that if the respiratory system is subjected to this fluid, unconsciousness and perhaps death may occur. He added that TCF is composed of the chloro derivatives of some hydrocarbons. The material can poison the skin if taken orally or the respiratory system if inhaled.

Higher Council of Arab Engineers Union to meet in Kuwait

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE 43rd session of the Higher Council of the Arab Engineers Union is scheduled to be held in Kuwait from 22 to 23 Feb at the Kuwait Engineers Society, according to the co-ordinator Eng. Nasser Al Shayji.

Speaking to Arab Times, he said that these meetings provide a basis for exchange of informa-

tion on the latest developments in the field of engineering, upgrading the expertise and capabilities of engineers, fostering inter-Arab engineering activities and enabling Arab engineers to use state-of-the-art technology in the development of the infrastructure in their respective countries.

A total of 16 Arab countries are expected to deputise their representatives to the forthcoming 43rd session, Shayji said. He

added that the 18th Arab Engineering Conference will precede the meeting of the 43rd session of the Higher Council of Arab Engineers Union.

The 43rd session will be opened by Abdul Rahman Al Houti, the Minister of Public Works.

The 18th Arab Engineering Conference to be held on Feb 18 will seek to establish existing Arab engineering possibilities, Shayji said.

Sabah presides over projects supreme committee meeting

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today presided over a meeting for the supreme committee of the structural design and major construction projects at the Ministry of Planning.

The meeting was attended by ministers of planning, finance, public works, electricity and water, communications, municipal affairs, housing, education, public health and information.

Secretary of the committee,

Assistant Undersecretary of the Planning Ministry Bader Jassim Al Bahar said the committee agreed to change the Shuweikh industrial area into Shuweikh services, professions and trade area.

The Municipality and Housing Ministry were entrusted with organising the industrial area located east of Qurain.

The committee also agreed on implementation of a number of urgent Interior Ministry projects, including the ministry's headquarters.

Information minister opens handicapped bazaar

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah today opened a bazaar organised by the Kuwaiti Society for the Handicapped.

The bazaar, the 11th such annual event to be organised by

the society, will generate revenue to help finance the society's activities.

On display were handicraft, antique objects and consumer commodities contributed by companies and individuals.

Kuwait to witness lunar eclipse on February 20

PEOPLE in Kuwait will witness a lunar eclipse on the 20th of this month, according to Abdul Hadi Marafi, the owner of Al Wafra Observatory for the study of astronomy.

The lunar eclipse will occur when the earth's orbit intercepts the moon's orbit. At that point, the sun will be midway to the earth with the moon in a straight line, causing the moon to enter the earth's shadow, Marafi said.

He added that the moon will rise at 5.37 pm on Feb 20 and will be totally eclipsed at 6.00. The moon will have a copper colour

and will retain its original colour minutes after 9.00 pm on the same night.

On a yearly basis, the earth encounters almost up to 18 different comets. This year, a comet almost similar to Haley's Comet will visit the earth. It will be at its closest location from the sun on Sept 28 this year. The comet's full cycle around the sun is estimated between 80 and 160 years.

A collision between a comet and the earth is a rare occurrence. Scientists have claimed that this phenomenon takes place every 26 million years.

Jahra Week

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): The Jahra Governorate's 8th Annual Week will be held, under the patronage of Jahra Governor Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Nasser, at Kazmeh intermediate school for girls on February 27.

Head of the organising committee and mukhtar of southern Jahra Mohammed Heif Al Hajref said today that the week will include a students' parade, a book exhibition, a cleaning campaign of the governorate in addition to artistic shows and cultural activities.

He appealed to local residents to partake in events of the week, which, he indicated, will be part of the country's National Day celebrations.

Thai killed in tragic accident

A TRAGIC accident that occurred at the Ministry of Communication's new Telecommunication Tower caused the death of a Thai labourer, according to a local daily.

The 26-year-old Thai was cleaning the stairs of the tower when a sledge hammer fell on his head causing instantaneous death.

The body has been referred to the authorities for conducting a post mortem. The Public Prosecutor's office is investigating the incident. No further details have been revealed.

Saudi king receives Khaddam

RIYADH, Feb 11, (AP): Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam conferred today with King Fahd on Arab issues, diplomatic sources said.

The official Saudi Press Agency said Khaddam arrived to meet Fahd in the Eastern Province, but it gave no details on the purpose of the visit.

It said Khaddam was received by the Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan, who escorted his guest into an immediate audience with the Saudi monarch.

Power broker

The diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said the talks mainly will concern pan-Arab efforts to end Lebanon's civil war, now in its 14th year.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon where it keeps around 40,000 troops under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate that dates from 1976. A League committee is now trying to reconcile the warring Christian and Muslim factions.

Saudi Arabia has been leading mediation efforts to heal rifts between Arab countries in preparation for a summit conference of the 22-member Arab League that would align policy on a Palestinian settlement.

Recognition

Syria remains at loggerheads with PLO chief Yasser Arafat. The PLO is acknowledged by the League as the representative of the Palestinian people.

The Arab states started granting diplomatic status to PLO offices in their capitals after the Palestine National Council, the PLO's legislative wing, proclaimed an independent Palestinian state last November.

Unlike the other Arab countries, Syria has not recognised that state.

Four boys detained at Juvenile Centre

FOUR boys, under eight years of age, have been committed to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre after being charged with conspiracy to sexually assault a housemaid, working at the house of one of them.

The juvenile court was told that one of the delinquents planned the move against the maid, taking advantage of his parents' absence and the presence of the three other accomplices.

The victim informed her employer of the incident and he reported the behaviour to the local police station.

BATELCO to build new earth station in April

BAHRAIN Telecommunications Company (BATELCO) will build a new earth station to enhance the island's telecommunications services.

Preliminary work on the project is scheduled to start in April and the station will be operational by April 1990.

According to general manager, Brian Wood, the proposed station to be set up at Ros Abu Jarjour will replace the first and oldest earth station in the Middle East built in Bahrain in 1968.

Wood said the project will ensure reliable telecommunications service to the public.

An international company is expected to be appointed to supply equipment, hopefully next month according to available reports. The new earth station will increase facilities of the digital exchanges, thereby ensuring more reliable communications services.

The new project will be Bahrain's third modern satellite earth station and will cost BD1.3 million. The other two are linked to Arabnet and the Indian Ocean network.

Considerable decline in tetanus cases in Bahrain

THERE has been a considerable decline in tetanus in Bahrain according to a survey conducted on the disease among a section of the population in the island between 1970-86. The study, which presents an analysis of all cases of tetanus patients treated at the Salmaniya Medical Centre during this period, was published in the latest edition of Bahrain Medical Bulletin, the country's only medical journal.

Survey

The survey added that tetanus has almost been eliminated in children under the age of five from 1974 and since 1980 no cases have been reported in children between the age of 4 weeks to 14 years. Since 1980 there has been no recorded death of women from the disease.

During the period mentioned above tetanus incidence declined generally from less than two per 100,000 in 1976 to about 1.4 per 100,000 in 1984. By 1984 neo-natal tetanus has been reduced to less than one per 1,000 live births.

Death due to tetanus has almost since 1982 and no case of neo-natal tetanus was reported after 1984, according to the report written by Doctors R.E. Rajab and K. Ardatt, both professors at the Arabian Gulf University's Medical Faculty.

Decline

The decline in tetanus has been attributed to new approach of improved maternity care, with maternal immunisation giving the quickest and best results in eliminating neo-natal and maternal tetanus. The elimination of tetanus among children has been due to the availability of routine and increased immunisation against tetanus for children over the last 20 years. Compulsory immunisation of pre-school children has also helped in reducing tetanus and provides hope for achieving a 100 per cent coverage in the near future.

The implementation of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) and the progressive rise in hospital delivery have also helped to reduce tetanus in Bahrain.

Eidan calls for setting up of dentistry faculty

A DENTISTRY faculty in Kuwait is necessary, according to Dr Bader Al Eidan, head of Kuwait Dentists Society.

He said that many students wish to study dentistry and refuse to study abroad and thereby enter other faculties. He said that the society calls for the establishment of the said faculty in Kuwait, or a joint faculty with the GCC states.

Services

Eidan pointed out that the Ministry of Public Health intends to allow dentists working with the ministry to open private clinics. This will improve dentistry services offered by the government and private sectors.

He added that the ministry began a project of model treatment for about 50,000 school

students. These students will obtain treatment in the Dentistry Centre, Hawalli Health Centre and Addan Hospital.

Awareness programme
The ministry has also prepared an awareness programme at schools about the proper usage of a toothbrush. Another programme was prepared to enlighten mothers on protecting their children's teeth, he said.

Eidan pointed out that the society often co-operates with the Arab Dentist Union. The union is about to complete an Arab Dentistry Dictionary. Needy Arab dentists are expected to benefit from the establishment of a dentistry emergency fund presently being considered as a co-operative effort between various Arab countries.

PACI registration now numbers 1.9 million

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (KUNA): The number of nationals and expatriates who are registered in the Civil Information system has reached 1,900,000, the director of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) said.

Faisal Al Shayji said that the public is co-operating with his department.

He went on to say that PACI started distributing new ID cards since last December noting that

nationals have the freedom to choose between a number of models.

He said PACI will establish its headquarters on the Sixth Ring Road in addition to two other new branches in Ahmadi and Hawalli.

He warned that anyone, who does not register new information or acquire a card, will be considered a violator.

Kuwait pays special attention to housing services: official

KUWAIT pays special attention to housing services which were instituted since the 1950s for Kuwaiti citizens, according to an official of the National Housing Authority (NHA).

Speaking at a seminar organised by Kuwait Municipality, Suhair Al Ahmad of the NHA said that the Qurain Housing Project is a good example of the efforts exerted by the state in developing housing services for Kuwaiti citizens.

The project is considered the biggest of its kind. The housing facility consists of various styles of buildings and utilities and are designed to accommodate about 10,000 citizens, Ahmad said.

Options

She added that the NHA is offering citizens several options of styles for building these houses, or land allotment to build their own houses with or without loans.

Continuing she said, that the fourth five-year-plan 1990/95 has several constraints such as

limited areas for building purposes including limited budget. These restrictions oblige the authorities to build certain styles of houses like flats instead of villas Ahmad added.

Speaking of the forthcoming plan, the official said that one of the most distinct marks is the establishment of new cities in remote areas such as Wafra, Khairan and Subiya and to enlighten Kuwaiti families on the practicalities of living inside Kuwait City, she said.

Problems

In a related development, Mohammed Al Noumas from the Savings and Credit Bank speaking at the same seminar said that the bank was established to solve housing problems by granting loans to citizens who wish to build their houses at their own expense.

The bank's charter is flexible he said. In case of death of the sponsors, the bank considers the family situation and exempts them from paying the balance of instalments.

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Seven years for sexual assault

A MAN accused of sexually molesting an eight-year-old boy was sentenced to seven years imprisonment with hard labour by the Criminal Court.

The court was told that the defendant persuaded the victim to enter his residence by promising to give him a football. The man lured him in, locked the door and perpetrated his crime.

The child told his parents about the incident.

Drug dealer arrested

KUWAIT'S security forces arrested a man for dealing in drugs. Official sources said that the suspect was under close surveillance for a length of time. On gaining evidence beyond a doubt, security forces raided his apartment in Jabriya and recovered some drugs.

The sources added that the accused was obtaining his supply from a dealer in Rabia who sold intravenous drugs.

The accused and the contraband have been referred to authorities for investigation.

GOING PLACES

A touch of colour at Feb 25 festivities

THIS year's Kuwait National Day will bring together various communities and nationalities, each contributing a glimpse of their culture to add a touch of colour to the festivities.

Dances from the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka and various other countries will be presented by various groups, on Feb 24, the open-day celebrations at the Shaab Gardens. Each group will present its national dance. Rehearsals have begun.

The Arab countries will contribute music. All Arab embassies in Kuwait have been asked to contribute their "country's

music" to enable Kuwaiti composers to write music for patriotic songs penned by Kuwaiti poets.

The best-known Kuwaiti composer Ghannam Al Dikhan has already begun composing music for lyrics written by Kuwaiti poet Dr Abdullah Al Otaibi. Popular singer Shadi Al Khaleej has been asked to lend his voice.

All the patriotic songs written by Kuwaitis will be presented in the form of an opera which will be staged at the Special Institute on Feb 25.

Susan goes to Bombay

KUWAIT-BASED Indian singer Susan Rego hopes to get a big break later this month when she performs with actress Nutan at the Shantivanand Hall in Bombay.

She will sing with Nutan at a show to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Bombay Flying Club on Feb 23.

Susan, a talented singer, performed to a packed house last October at the East Meets West

concert at IAC. She wants to become a professional singer and model and feels that her performance in Bombay will be her break she has been waiting for.

She leaves Kuwait this week for two concerts in Goa — on Feb 18 in Margao and Feb 19 in Panjim. She has been asked to perform for Doordarshan, Bombay, and has accepted several modelling assignments.



French music at Kuwait concert

A SELECTION of classical and contemporary songs will be presented by two popular French musicians at a concert later this month.

Pianist Roselyna Masset-Lecocq and soprano Francoise Carre (above) will be in Kuwait for the Feb 20 concert at the Meridien Hotel.

Masset-Lecocq, a graduate of the Paris Conservatory, is a winner of the first prize in harmony, counterpoint and composition. She also won the Casa Velasquez Prize given by the French government and

several other prizes.

Carre, mezzo-soprano, graduated from the Nancy Conservatory and is currently teaching at the Paris Conservatory. A winner of several awards, she has made several records of contemporary and medieval music.

The concert has been organised by the French Cultural Centre (French embassy).

Concert tickets are available at the Meridien Hotel, Business Centre, Voltaire Institute and the French Cultural Centre.

Goan drama

THE Goan community in Kuwait, now preparing for the Nehru Centenary celebration, will present three one-act plays on Friday at the IAC.

The first is an English comedy "Bebic and Dodol," written by Dr Gerry Rodrigues. It is about Mr and Mrs Pascal who make "Bebic and Dodol" to present it to the Bishop. Two tramps — Joaquim and John — also have an eye on them. It seems to be a family affair for the Rodrigues — Gerry, Mrs Rodrigues, Lianne and Gustavo — will star in this production.

The N.G.O.A. will present the second play, "Bad Luck," by Rosary Fernandes. It is a romantic triangle about two girls who fall in love with the same boy, Rosary, Cajetan Pereira and Marcos play the principle roles in this comedy in Konkani.

The third, by Goan Cultural Society, is entitled "Udhari" (On Credit) — and focusses on the behaviour of five businessmen in Goa and their relationship with their clients.

The plays will be staged at the IAC on Friday from 3.30 pm. The Goans will also sing, dance and present comic sketches during the programme.

For reservations contact Cajetan/Marcus/Xavier on Tel: 264-4983/2413348.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.10 Good Morning
- 9.15 Cartoon serial
- 9.45 World News via Satellite
- 10.00 Al Thaman: Arabic serial; starring: Jamil Awadh, Juliet Awadh, Rumi Al Safdi, Iman Kamel
- 10.50 News Summary/Good Morning
- 11.00 Khalati Qamasha: local Arabic serial; starring: Khalid Al Nafisi, Hayat Al Fahd, Suad Abdullah, Ghannam Al Saleh, Maryam Ghadban, Ali Mufeedi
- 12.00 Believe It or Not!
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 Holy Quran/Close-down

EVENING

- 4.00 Holy Quran
- 4.15 World News via Satellite
- 4.45 Cartoon serial
- 5.15 Tum Tek and Children
- 5.30 Thousand and One Nights
- 6.00 Ibn Attiya: historical serial; starring: Majed Afouni, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.15 Songs and Music
- 7.50 Diwanayat Shura Al Nabir: poetry session
- 8.30 Good Evening
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Al Baharat: Al Marrah: Arabic serial, starring: Hassan Abideen, Ahmed Maher, Muna Jabar, Fatima Tabae, Mohammad Rida and Anwar Ismael
- 10.50 Variety show hosted by Raja Al Qudsi, and featuring Ghannam Slaiti, Abdul Aziz Jassim, Amru Ziyab
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 World News via Satellite/ Holy Quran/Close-down



More comedy comes your way tonight in What's Happening Now, KTV 2.



Ghanem Al Saleh and Hayat Al Fahd star in Khalati Qamasha, KTV 1.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Dennis the Menace: cartoon serial
- 6.30 The Owl: tonight's episode examines how animals are trained; new automobiles and making music by computer
- 7.00 Scientific Eye: "Drying Out." A programmed designed for young viewers. It looks at the concepts of evaporation, heating, condensation,

humidity and ventilation. The Pursuit of Happiness: "A History Lesson." Professor Duncan gets a private tutor for his daughter.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Call Me Mister. Jack is hired by a woman to find her daughter.

9.40 Dive to Adventure: "The Devil Fish by El Bijo." Documentary.

10.00 What's Happening Now: "The Wedding."

Roger and Nadine plan proper wedding party for their friends.

10.30 Best-Seller: "The Lancaster and Miller Affair." Part 3. Lancaster is questioned about his alleged role in his friend's murder. Though, he is proved innocent, he is asked to leave the U.S.

11.30 News Summary Magazine D'Actualite: Holy Quran Close-down

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT. - THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT. - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT. - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, baskets, etc. Textiles. Closed on Friday.

CINEMA

French Film Festival
The Kuwait Cine Club and the French Cultural Centre will hold the French film festival at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The programme is as follows:

Feb 12: Around Midnight (1986), directed by Bertrand Tavernier; 113 minutes.

Feb 13: Subway (1986) directed by Luc Besson; 104 minutes.

Feb 14: The Murdered House, Georges Lautner; 110 minutes.

Feb 15: The 4 Adventures of Reinette and Mirabelle; directed by Eric Rohmer; 95 minutes.

Feb 18: Elsa Elsa (1985), directed by Didier Haudepin; 80 minutes.

All films will be shown at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium. Screening starts at 7.30 pm. Children not admitted.

EXHIBITIONS

Children's Books of the Year '88

UNTIL FEB 16: An exhibition of British books for children, written by award-winning writers and illustrators, will be held at the British Council, Mansouriyah.

The programme is as follows: Films: Feb 15 (6 pm): The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (cartoon film).

Storytelling Session: A professional story-teller will conduct the sessions. Feb 16 (9.30 - 10.30 am) a session for children — aged seven to 10; (11-12 noon) stories for children aged three to six.

All are welcome. Free admission. But it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

SOCIAL

German Speaking Cultural Association

FEB 15, 8 pm. A fancy dress party and tombola with attractive prizes will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Al Andalus Club. All members of the German-speaking community and their guests are welcome. Tickets available at German embassy, German school and library and for late-comers at the Andalus on Feb 15.

Kuwait Rondels

FEB 16: The Kuwait Rondels Grand Ball '89 will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact Tel: 5337597.

Flying Arrows

FEB 16: The Flying Arrows Sporting Centre will celebrate its 10th anniversary/Valentines Day at the SAS Tent. Music will be by the Stepping Stones and Perfect Strangers. For details contact 2432791/5721824.

Charity Bazaar

THE Kuwait Society for the Handicapped will hold a charity bazaar at its premises, behind Andalus Cinema, Cairo

Street. All proceeds will go to the care of the disabled children in Kuwait. It will be open, during working hours, for a week at the Society's premises.

Bangladesh Association
Feb 23: The association will hold a discussion followed by a cultural programme to mark the Martyr's Day (Shaheed Dibosh) at the Bangladesh embassy premises in Jabriya. All Bangladeshis are invited.

KAPILKU Night

MARCH 3: The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait will hold KAPILKU night at Holiday Inn Hotel, Al Andalus Club, from 5.00 pm to 10.00 pm. A sing-a-like contest and the Bagong Kampeon (a singing contest) will be held. The top three in both categories will receive valuable prizes. Snacks and drinks will be served. Entrance fee: KD 2. For details contact Sarah on Tel: 4843447.

Dance Recital

FEB 23 (6.30 pm): A well-known Indian classical dancer Dr Padma Subramanyam will give a Bharata Natya (dance-ballet) recital.

FEB 25 (6 pm): Dr Padma will give a solo-recital called "Janya Moksham," danced to Tchaikovsky's music. The recital has been organised as part of the Nehru Centenary celebration. Both performances will be held at the IAC, Finaitees. For entry passes contact 3904817.

Gayathri Arts

FEB 25: 10 - 5 pm. The Gayathri Arts organisation for arts and sports will hold a social event to celebrate the Nehru Centenary. Indoor games and competition will be held at the Indian Embassy Hall.

Kuwait Welsh Society

MARCH 1 (Wednesday): St David's Day buffet-dance will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel at 8 pm. Tickets — KD 6. For reservations phone 3713467.

Gala Dinner

MARCH 9: The Great Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For

details call 4831339; 5393151.

HOTELS

At the Meridien

CREPE Festival at Al Waha restaurant, until Feb 28.

Every Sunday: Mexican Night at La Brasserie. A wide selection of Mexican dishes are offered: menu includes tacos, nachos, paella and refried beans; live entertainment.

Versailles: offers a new concept in dining, featuring a selection of grilled seafood, meat or fish fondue and other dishes, open for lunch and dinner. Businessman's lunch is also featured. Every Thursday is Jam Session at La Brasserie, featuring Remy D'Mello. Friday's, there is family fun with Oriental buffet and music.

At the Kuwait Plaza

Filipino night held every Sunday from 7 pm to 9.30 pm. Al Dallah coffee shop: buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner; also set menu: mini-business lunch. International Food Arcade: 4 to 10 pm; ice-cream festival: light snacks served from 10.00 am to 11.00 pm.

Bosphorus Restaurant: Turkish cuisine, a la carte; lunch and dinner daily except Saturday.

Marco Polo Restaurant: Italian food, live music and at night candlelight dinner.

At the Pullman

ELYSEES restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shallal coffee shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the SAS

BISTRETTO: a new Italian restaurant has been opened at the hotel. A selection of Italian dishes are offered in addition to international and local specialties prepared by chef Peter D. Zobrist.

Al Boom: the floating restaurant will offer a different speciality every two days as well as the Al Boom menu of charcoal grills.

Peacock Room: offers a wide variety of Chinese cuisine

introduced by chef Von Kwee Kion.

The Clock Drive-In restaurant serves fast foods and daily specials.

SPORTS

Five-a-Side Football

Feb 17: The Weekend Club will hold their first annual five-a-side football tournament at the Al Sour Grounds. The draw will be held on the same day. For entry forms contact M. Dias (Off.) 2460983.

Laser Sailing

FEB 16/17: Messilah Beach open meeting; four race event over two days. All laser sailors wishing to participate please contact David Clark: 4845171/2425947; P. Shepherd — 4845153/5314957; F. Perry — 3924174.

United Goans Centre

FEB 24: The UGC will hold their 10th annual league football tournament. The draw will be held on Feb 16. All KIFF-affiliated teams are requested to contact the organisers for registration.

Tivim Centre

MAR. 4/5: The Tivim Centre will hold its second annual one-day seven-a-side football festival at Al Sour grounds. This will be followed by their second inter-village nine-a-side football tournament, beginning April 8. For details contact organisers.

Mini Rugby

Training and games every Friday at the Ahmadi ground; training starts at 10 am and mini-rugby finishes at 11.30 am. For details call Hugh McAree — 5326368 or Geoff Bennett — 5332683.

Raft Race

The third Kuwait Annual Raft Race will be held on May 26. Mens/ladies/mixed and carnival events. This year's rules and regulations are available from the Messilah Beach Hotel. The first captains' meeting will be held at the hotel on March 7 (6.30 pm).

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait:
Al Salem Pharmacy
nr. Sheraton, Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nugra
Al Kindi Pharmacy
Opp. Asian Olympic Council, Jabriya
Salamiya and Rumaithiya
Al Raed Pharmacy
Armanan St.
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Sheba Pharmacy
F'heel
Khalitan
Al Ahram Pharmacy
Block 2
Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
Area 4, Block 48

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.09 am
Zuhr	12.02
Asr	3.12 pm
Maghreb	5.35
Isha	6.53

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Lethal Weapon
Starring: Mel Gibson
Al Salmiya
Roxanne
Starring: Steve Martin, Daryl Hannah
Al Hamra
Youn Mir Youn Helu (Arabic)
Starring: Faten Hamama, Mohammad Munir
Drive-In
Ya Azizi... (Arabic)
Starring: Laila Alwi, Saeed Saleh, Osama Abbas
Al Firdous
Kanoon Ke Dushman (Hindi)
Starring: Rajnikant, Reena Fahsheel Open-air
Roop Tara Mastana (Hindi)
Al Fahsheel
Three Men and a Baby
Al Jahra
Ganga Jamuna Saraswathi
Granada
Halal Ki Kamai
Sulaibikhat
Mad Mission (II)
Al Jleeb
Oru Muthashi Katha (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-in
Count of Monte Cristo

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- 3) Transferable residence is essential.
- 4) Preferably with a Kuwaiti driving license.
- 5) Good appearance and personality.

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NB. Interviews are held daily from 8:30 in the morning up to 2:15 in the afternoon.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I CLAIM not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me — Abraham Lincoln, US president (1809-1865).

Withdrawal from Afghanistan

Soviet's global leverage increasing

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Most countries are weakened by military failure, but the Soviet Union is likely to emerge with greater global leverage once its troops have withdrawn from Afghanistan, US foreign policy experts say.

They predict the negative impact of Moscow's setback will not be as severe as that of America's drubbing in Vietnam. They believe the Soviet image will improve in the West and the Kremlin's influence in the Muslim world will increase once it leaves Afghanistan.

"This is not as embarrassing as the US retreat from Vietnam," said Afghanistan expert Selig Harrison of the private Carnegie Endowment think tank, who argued that a multi-national Afghan peace accord signed last April was a "fig leaf" allowing Kremlin forces to leave with some dignity.

Retreat
When the last US officials and troops evacuated Vietnam in 1975, the image was of a world power in retreat.

Television pictures showed US-backed South Vietnamese soldiers clinging desperately to the struts of escaping American helicopters and US diplomats whisked to safety from an embassy roof as the communists closed in.

The war created deep divisions in the United States that persisted for years, with a strong faction in Congress opposing efforts by the president to flex military muscle. Not until Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980 did the United States begin to reassert itself in any consistent way.

In contrast, the withdrawal from Afghanistan came as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was strongly asserting himself in world affairs with arms control and other initiatives that have often forced Washington into a reactive stance.

Robert Neumann, a former ambassador to Afghanistan, said the Soviet withdrawal was not likely to cause dissension within the Soviet Union but would be greeted with almost universal

Soviet pullout boosts ties with Iran

By Lee Stokes

MANAMA, (UPI): The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is leading to improved Tehran-Moscow ties but also poses a key question for Iran: how much can it afford to bolster ties with its communist neighbour without a balancing positive relationship with the United States.

Spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini regards the United States as a greater enemy than the Soviet Union, partly because of US backing for the Shah's regime. More recently, the power of the US military in the Gulf has blocked Khomeini's aim of exporting Islamic fundamentalism throughout the Muslim world.

The ending of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, a fellow Muslim country, has allowed cash-strapped Iran to turn to the Soviet Union and its allies for technology and goods it once received from the United States. Iran has sanctioned major barrier deals with oil-hungry East European countries, leading to a string of visits from communist officials eager to sign trade agreements.

Gas
In a major policy switch, Iran agreed to provide 3 billion cubic metres in natural gas to the Soviet Union annually.

In return, Tehran is negotiating to get equipment and spare parts for its war-damaged oil industry, heavy construction and mining equipment and machinery for industrial production. Once installed, it would be difficult, although not impossible, for Iran to switch to Western suppliers.

On Tuesday, Janusz Kaczmarek, the Polish deputy minister of foreign trade co-operation, said in Tehran that Polish-Iranian trade could double this year.

Tehran's rapidly improving ties with the Soviet bloc are in contrast to those with Washington, which have been stalemated since the 1979 Iranian takeover

delight and would help Gorbachev.

A State Department Middle East expert, speaking on condition he not be identified, said Moscow would not be able to improve relations with Arab governments that had bitterly opposed attacks on fellow Muslims in Afghanistan.

This might help Soviet Union play a bigger role in efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said.

The withdrawal was also likely to improve the Soviet image in Western Europe and elsewhere and would help Gorbachev convince the world he was a sincere in eschewing adventurism.

On the other hand, a legacy of anti-Soviet bitterness was likely to persist for years in Afghanistan. Some one million Afghans were killed or wounded and five million became refugees during the fighting, according to US estimates.

Soviet forces intervened in Afghanistan to shore up communist rule in 1979 and fought a nine-year war against mujahideen rebels before agreeing to peace terms.

Deadline
The Soviet troops are pulling out rapidly to meet a Feb 15 deadline for total withdrawal.

Afghanistan-watchers predict the government of President Najibullah will eventually collapse. "If the Kabul government could not hold the country with 120,000 heavily-armed Russians, what are its prospects?" asked Neumann.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's last-ditch efforts to prevent a bloody finale to the Afghanistan conflict ended in apparent failure in Islamabad on Monday.

"It doesn't seem he got anywhere," a Western diplomat said as Shevardnadze headed home from Pakistan after plans for a meeting with Afghan rebel leaders collapsed.

Bush administration officials say the Soviet withdrawal is a big victory for the US policy of backing rebels with arms worth an estimated \$2 billion. Soviet pressure on Pakistan, a key US friend that borders Afghanistan, will now almost certainly diminish.

of the US embassy, in which 52 Americans were held hostage for 444 days. The comparison makes some members of the Iranian leadership distinctly uncomfortable.

"For the Soviets, Iran remains the prize of the Gulf," said a US diplomat based in this Gulf monitoring post.

"It's true that expediency has demanded greater economic co-operation with the Soviets and their allies. But that co-operation in researching the point of actual dependence, and that's the last thing even Khomeini could possibly want."

Many Iranians still remember the Soviet occupation of part of northern Iran after World War II.

A West European envoy noted that Iran has improved relations with West Germany, France and Britain since last summer's ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. But he added, "only the Americans have the economic clout and the military power in the region to provide any real counterweight to the Russians."

A Soviet diplomat passing through the Gulf last year noted, "Iran is very important to us because some of our young people feel a strong sympathy with the Islamic republic."

Propaganda
If Iran becomes heavily dependent on the Soviets, it could be forced to stop broadcasting Islamic propaganda to the Muslim population of the Soviet Union.

Even though Iranian President Ali Khamenei snubbed President Bush's inaugural gesture toward Iran, pragmatists among the ruling clergy indicate that relations with the United States could resume if Bush releases Iranian assets held in American banks.

For the United States, the key problem is the continuing incarceration of American hostages kidnapped in Lebanon by guerrillas believed to be supported by Iran.

New American administration wants to put steam into Middle East peace process

PLO supporters try to force Bush's hand

EVEN before President George Bush's inauguration American members of Palestine Liberation Organisation sought to challenge him by announcing that they had invited Yasser Arafat to address their annual conference in Florida in April.

They wanted to force the new President to declare his policy toward the PLO after the breakthrough the PLO leader scored during the waning days of Secretary of State George Schultz. The test to be was whether the Bush administration, after its predecessor had denied Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations, would grant him one.

In view of the new President, I understand, the shoe now is on Arafat's foot. In his view if the PLO tried to press the visa question, it would be an indication that its aims are not gradual and serious negotiations to advance the peace process with Israel, but to score points.

Message

I am also told that this message has been conveyed through PLO sources and American diplomats in Tunis to Arafat. When Bush was asked at his first formal press conference whether and at what level a meeting between Arafat and an American official would be appropriate, he replied that he had not given any thought to this problem. He added: "We're just starting (in communicating with the PLO). You crawl before you walk. We're just starting to talk to them because they have—dramatically I'd say—they have agreed to the principles that are part of our policy."

I have no doubt that the Bush administration wants to put steam into the Middle East peace process and that, at least at this stage, it is approaching this issue perhaps more open-mindedly than did the Reagan administration. It would therefore be wise for the PLO to go easy on forcing the visa issue and not to present the Bush administration with problems that are delicate and therefore need to be dealt with cautiously and patiently.

Reviews

The new administration is still in the process of — as Americans say — getting its ducks in order. Many positions in the State Department have yet to be filled, and that applies to Middle East as well as other areas: policy

reviews that every incoming administration indulges in, are therefore slow in getting anywhere.

I am told, for instance, that the problem of future relations with Iran has top priority as far as the Middle East is concerned because this is considered here a propitious moment to discuss US-Iran relations and to obtain co-operation in the release of the hostages.

Nobody quite knows how much influence Iran can exert on Hezbollah which is holding many hostages, including Terry Waite who believed that he enjoyed some sort of immunity from terrorists until he himself became one of their victims. But the Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, himself admitted the other day in an interview with the London Observer, that Iran's influence was "not unlimited" and that it enjoys brotherly and religious relations with this belligerent sect.

Hostages

The release of the hostages, even though Iran does not have direct control over them, is one of the key conditions under indirect discussions between the US and Tehran. The US has some powerful bargaining cards because it holds billions of dollars in frozen assets. The big controversy is what comes first, concessions from Iran or the release of the assets. American officials, therefore, are talking about difficult obstacles they are facing in their negotiations with the Iranians. Furthermore, American public opinion remains very hostile to Iran. The treatment of the American hostages suffered during the Carter administration has not been forgotten. It would be highly unpopular therefore, if the US were to make concessions without getting the release of those American hostages held by Iran's allies in Lebanon first.

Domestic

In the first few days of the Bush administration the emphasis has been on such domestic problems as the budget deficit, how to rescue the troubled savings and loan banks and how to construct the Bush team. But foreign affairs are about to come into their own. President Bush will be flying to Japan to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito and use the opportunity to stop informally in

Inside Washington

By Henry Brandon



South Korea and China and to inform himself about the forthcoming Sino-Soviet summit due to take place in mid-May.

American officials, as I have reported earlier, feel quite comfortable about the two nations trying to improve their relationship. But that does not mean that the restoration of relations between the world's two largest communist parties and the world's two largest standing armies has not raised some questions in their mind. Bush, for instance, would not want to see China and the Soviet Union develop close co-operation between their military or their com-

munist parties.

His experts will also watch the impact these new feelers will have on the troop dispositions of the two. According to American estimates the Soviet Union has about 50 divisions with about half a million troops in Soviet Asia near the Chinese border.

There are also about 60,000 Soviet troops in Mongolia. Being in striking distance of Beijing, they have been a worry for the Chinese. Gorbachev, in his speech before the United Nations, promised to withdraw "a major portion" of the Soviet troops in Mongolia and to cut the total troop strength in Soviet

Asia "significantly". The question is whether they will be demobbed to help reduce defence spending.

China and the Soviet Union, at least economically and structurally, have much more in common than they do with the United States, though both are now trying to introduce free market-oriented economic reforms. The Chinese have been more successful with their reforms, though, recently they had to put a damper on them out of concern that they could get out of hand and stimulate corruption rather than economic expansion.

They have been less forthcoming with political reforms. The Soviets are now forced to speed up their economic reforms and to rein in those who are trying to go too far in exploiting political reforms. Both areas a loss to deal with the consequences of lifting price controls. Both, however, depend a good deal on technological and financial help from the West. Briefly at least, the President's whirlwind tour of Japan, China and South Korea will give him a feel of how these three countries view their relations with the United States.

Secretary of State James Baker III, who will be accompanying the President, will go on his own to Europe, to familiarise himself with the leaders of the NATO allies and their views of the future. In the first week of March he will fly to Vienna for the ceremonial opening of the new East-West conventional arms negotiations where he will also make his first contact with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Baker is something of a newcomer to foreign affairs, but he has the self-confidence to know what he does not know. He is not a man who would want to pretend to have all the background when he does not.

Visits

The visits of NATO capitals, all involving private, face-to-face meetings, in seven days, are therefore his way of getting himself briefed. He is a better listener than he is a reader of memos and background papers. He is a quick study, but for now, it is my guess, he will concentrate on tactics for which he has a special feel, and less on strategy which he will leave to the President's National Security adviser Gen. Brent

Scowcroft, an old hand in dealing with foreign and military policy problems. That does not mean that Baker, once he feels more at home with foreign affairs, will not take full command.

Baker will use his visits to allied capitals not only to inform himself, but also to reassure the allies that he would like to avoid American troop reductions in Europe as long as they can.

Secondly, he will tell them that he plans to place East-West relations on top of his agenda. American officials are impressed by the determination and punctuality with which the Soviet troops got out of Afghanistan. Gorbachev seems to be anxious to prove to his own public at home that when he promises something he tries to fulfil it — and there is no doubt that the troop withdrawal is popular with Soviet public opinion.

Reassurance

He may be equally anxious to reassure Western public opinion — which for quite a while remained sceptical about his keeping his word — that he is the kind of man who keeps his word. At any rate, the Soviet Union is abandoning Afghanistan although Soviet diplomacy failed to find a compromise solution that would at least for a short time keep the Najibullah government in control.

However, much of an embarrassment the retreat from Afghanistan may be for Gorbachev, he can rightly claim that it was not his but Brezhnev's decision to send Soviet troops into this notorious mountain mess. Still, he has to bear the onus of a humiliating withdrawal. That, in turn, has led to a public and behind-the-scenes debate whether the United States should help him save face.

Among officials at least, there is a broad consensus that there is little the United States can do to mitigate the embarrassment, except keep hands off the conflict that are likely to develop among the various factions of the mujahideens and with the Najibullah regime. Nor is there a feeling that Gorbachev's own leadership is threatened by what has happened in Afghanistan. As one high official put it to me: "The American interest is what policies Gorbachev is going to pursue in future."

Second part of the in-depth study on the changing face of China

By Ann Scott Tyson

Shower of wealth passes over some areas

DAHENG, China: Emerging from the darkness of his earthen cave, Li Ketai scans a lonely flat of sunbaked land where for generations his kin have endured drought, thirst, and famine.

"For food and water, we depend on heaven," said Li, who has lived for 60 years in a dugout carved from a barren hillside high on China's vast loess plateau.

This year, heaven proved unkind. Drought seared farmland throughout the desolate region, destroying the wheat crop that was to feed Li's family. "Nothing survived," said Li, whose main sustenance now is less than a pound a day of government grain.

Threatened with severe shortages of water, fuel, and nourishment in this harsh northwestern terrain, Li and the 2,700 villagers of Daheng are among the poorest of China's poor.

It is as if the shower of new wealth that has swept China in the past decade of economic reform passed over the arid highlands of Daheng, a tiny cluster of adobe homes linked to the outside by only a dirt path.

Despite impressive economic growth since Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping began freeing market forces in the late 1970s, deprivation persists for millions of Chinese in remote mountain and border areas. Almost all of the impoverished are farmers, and many belong to China's minority ethnic groups.

Poverty

One hundred million Chinese — a 10th of the population — live below the official poverty line, surviving on less than 200 yuan (\$34) a year. The most destitute, 30 to 40 million people, are hungry, poorly clothed, and inadequately sheltered, according to government statistics.

More controversial, from a Marxist viewpoint, has been the dramatic widening of the income gap between China's rich and poor since 1980. In that year, Deng denounced the radical egalitarianism of Mao Tse-tung and began encouraging "a part of the population ... to become well off first."

Under Mao, China sacrificed growth for equality. The state was a "big rice pot," redistributing wealth but suppressing vital

incentives. Deng reversed Mao's priorities, condoned inequality, and urged Chinese to compete for wealth in a drive for economic efficiency and prosperity.

Deng's reforms have allowed localities to thrive or stagnate on their own strengths, sharply exacerbating regional income disparities. Most glaring is the contrast between China's prospering east coast and the remote, economically backward inland.

In 1980, China's eastern provinces boasted an average rural income 27 per cent above that of those in the west. By 1987, the difference had reached 60 per cent, according to Chinese and World Bank statistics.

"We predict the gap will expand for the next several decades," said Gao Hongbin, vice-director of the State Council's Poverty Office. "China will fail to modernize if we eliminate these discrepancies."

Reforms

The inequities spawned by reforms are striking when one travels from big cities in the east to inland regions like Gansu, one of China's poorest provinces.

A thousand miles from the East China Sea, Gansu covers a large swath of China's loess plateau, a mass of wind-borne silt rising some 6,000 feet above sea level. To the north, the plateau abuts the Great Wall, and beyond it, the Gobi Desert.

Here, rainfall is a scant 50 to 100 inches a year and temperatures stay at or below freezing from November until February. Erosion has caused the plateau's soft, yellow loess to become a maze of gullies.

The most destitute part of Gansu is its middle region, where, despite gains from antipoverty programmes, officials estimate that a third of the population lacks adequate food and clothing. The region is home to 5.4 million peasants, including the villagers of Daheng.

Here, the legacy of hardship is so ancient and enduring that it has shaped the region's folk culture.

"Nine years out of 10 bring drought, and we must eat one year's harvest for a decade," one saying goes. When heaven provides no rain, drinking water must be hauled scores of miles from the Yellow River by truck, donkey cart, and men on foot.

"In the most difficult times, flocks of birds follow the water trucks into our country — they

Millions of Chinese still feel deprived



Subsistence farmer heads out to tend his field in Gansu Province, China.

are thirsty, too," said Zhang Zhaomin, a Daheng official.

With sporadic drought and no irrigated land, peasants in Daheng toil in constant uncertainty. Grain yields in the region are among the lowest in China, but each year farmers plough and sow, hoping nature will grant even a single crop.

Coaxing all they can from the parched land, Li and other Daheng peasants use a grueling centuries-old tilling method known as "dry-gravel farming." Li digs gravel from loess bluffs and spreads it thickly across his fields to hold in the moisture from any rain. After planting seed deep beneath the rock layer, Li never waters, but waits for wheat to sprout up between the stones. Li must harvest the wheat by hand, removing the roots to keep them from obstructing future crops.

Prosperity

"Grandfather dies hauling gravel," goes a local proverb. The father reaps higher yields from the rock-strewn land, and so "dies of prosperity." But after successive harvests a new layer of stones is needed, and "the son dies of starvation."

Li and his family are not starving, but food shortages are chronic in Daheng, and most of the villagers have long relied on government relief grain to stave off hunger. "Here life is difficult and poor, so we eat the state's grain," said Xue Yuhui.

A primary school graduate, Li said he knows little about "the outside world." Before being interviewed, he said he had never met a foreigner. In his spare time, he said, he sometimes reads a newspaper. Otherwise, "I walk around, or drink tea."

While Beijing is eager to help villages like Daheng escape deprivation, reform has brought a new pragmatism to antipoverty work. In 1986, Beijing began phasing out the Maoist policy of sustaining the poor with handouts of cash, grain, and cotton cloth. Instead, most state poverty funds are now channelled into low-interest loans for development projects.

Irrigation projects have dramatically increased crop yields in some parts of Gansu's middle region. Near Daheng, a joint Chinese and World Food Programme project last year began pumping millions of gallons of Yellow River water into 90,000 acres of arid land.

But many poverty-stricken areas like Daheng lie beyond the reach of such projects. Acknowledging this, Beijing has abandoned efforts to develop some areas and encouraged their inhabitants to migrate.

The Christian Science Monitor Publishing Society.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1554 — Lady Jane Grey is executed for treason in England.
- 1577 — Don John of Austria, new governor of the Netherlands, issues edict to settle civil war.
- 1610 — France's King Henry IV signs alliance with German Protestant Union.
- 1689 — Declaration of rights in England, in which William and Mary are proclaimed king and queen for life.
- 1736 — Nadir Shah becomes king of Persia.
- 1885 — German East Africa Company is chartered.
- 1895 — Japanese forces score impressive victory at Wei-Hai-Wei in China.
- 1899 — Germany buys Pacific Islands of Marinas, Caroline and Pelew from Spain.
- 1912 — Manchukuo dynasty abdicates in China and provincial republic is established.
- 1934 — Workers stage general strike in France.
- 1953 — Britain and Egypt reach agreement on Sudan.
- 1956 — Soviet Union warns that dispatch of US or British troops to Middle East will violate United Nations charter.
- 1970 — Israeli air raid on scrap metal plant in Egypt kills 70 civilians.
- 1974 — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Soviet Nobel prize winner, is arrested at his Moscow apartment.
- 1986 — Andrija Artukovic, 86, is extradited from United States to Yugoslavia to stand trial in killing of more than 700,000 people during Nazi rule in World War II.
- 1988 — Israeli soldiers kill two people and wound at least three others when they open fire on demonstrators in West Bank city of Nablus.

Grand master of Indian cinema returns to the sets

By Don Ranaivosoa

IN Indrapuri Studio, stage six, Tollygunge, south Calcutta, the most famous Bengali cultural ambassador and grand master of Indian cinema is back at work.

At 68, Satyajit Ray stands alongside Kurosawa as the oldest great director of cinema still working. Since the succession of heart failures during the filming of *Ghare Baire* (The Home and the World) in 1983, and the subsequent bypass operation, Ray has been kept under strict surveillance by his doctor. He has been allowed only to edit and illustrate Sandesh, the children's magazine established by his grandfather in 1913.

The relaxed, Sturges-like family atmosphere on the set of *Ganashatru* (a free adaptation of Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*) is what keeps him going. Working only between 11 am and 4.30 pm, with three planned pauses of four days each since the first day of shooting on December 1, 1988, Ray has averaged an extraordinary six minutes per day of usable material, editing and composing the music as he went along.

"I never have to shoot more than two or three takes, although I prefer not to run extensive rehearsals before we get on the set because I have to have all the props in place and the actors totally familiar with their lines. I now have over an hour of rough cut and, all being well, I should complete the film by mid-April, in good time for Cannes," he says.

Majestic

Ray looks well. Gracious and majestic as ever in his light peach kurta and white shawl, he is proud and confident of having many films left in him and is lovingly cared for by everyone under the watchful eye of Bijoya, his wife of 40 years. He speaks calmly with razor sharp determination and lucidity.

"When I finally got the green light from the doctor I knew I had to pick a subject that could be shot entirely in a studio. I found in Ibsen a work of great dramatic intensity and extreme relevance to the world, and especially to today's India. I want to work fast and I am a very economical director. The total

After successive heart attacks and a bypass operation, Satyajit Ray is shooting a new film 'Ganashatru.'

budget for this film is US\$100,000. We have a very small audience for Bengali films since they are not allowed to travel to Bangladesh, and most of the glorious Calcutta cinemas, such as the Metro, the Lighthouse or the Globe, are in a poor state of repair and it is no longer that much fun going out.

Over a period of two months, last autumn, he prepared four drafts, moving further and further away from the original text and introducing new characters to consolidate the specifically Indian texture of the story.

Ganashatru deals with corruption related to industrial pollution threatening the lives of Chandipur, an imaginary West Bengal town, whose residents' livelihoods depend on the popularity of the town's sacred temple and its waters.

The realistic, deep immersion bathing and consumption of the polluted "holy water", which is rife with cholera, typhoid, and gastro-enteritis bacteria, produce an epidemic which Dr Ashok Gupta (played by Ray's favourite actor, Soumitra Chatterjee) proposes to halt by closing down the temple.

Happier

Local politicians force newspaper editor, Haridas Bagchi, to keep the lid on the story while they successfully manoeuvre Ashok out of a job. Unwilling to publish a disclaimer on the rumours now circulating in the town, a beaten and distraught Ashok is ready to leave for a new life in Calcutta. Suddenly, a privately published news-sheet appears, revealing all.

Ray is happier with this screen play than with almost any other. The social significance of his story can be tested all too readily by a visit to the Khaligat sacred temple (the place that gives Calcutta its name), where goats are slain and food, crawling with maggots, is offered to the god-

dess. Being the most important of the 51 holy places, a Hindi is supposed to make at least one visit during his lifetime. It is necessary for the believers to wash themselves in the malodorous, fetid waters of the adjacent "public cleansing site", before falling into a spiritual frenzy in front of the frightening statue of the Goddess of Destruction.

Next door, Mother Teresa attempts to keep bodies and souls together for a little while longer, in her haven for dying destitutes, and a mass of street vendors peddle their wares with wailing litanies. "I love Calcutta," says Ray, "I could not live anywhere else and only one of my films, *The Chess Players* in Lucknow, and some of my children's stories (set in Rajasthan) are set away from Bengal. It is, culturally, the richest region of India, with a strong tradition in literature and the arts best exemplified, perhaps, by Rabindranath Tagore, from whose work I have often drawn inspiration. I myself am probably better known directly to the wider public, and especially to the adolescents, as a writer of over 100 detective and fantasy stories with recurring characters such as professor Shanku, who is much more famous than I am."

Suspicious

Once, Ray was tempted to make the trip to the United States, at the invitation of David O. Selznick, to explore the possibility of shooting a remake of *Anna Karenina* in India, but it turned out that the famous producer wanted him to play Count Voronsky opposite his wife Jennifer Jones, as well as direct: "I have never had any ambition to act and, after a frank talk with Selznick in Berlin, we agreed that I could not work under the constraints of the Hollywood system. I mean, I have trouble about thinking of working in Delhi or Bombay!"

When he did make it to the US in 1967 he found that his early suspicions were well grounded. He had with him a project called *Alena* about a funny creature from outer space who befriends a young earthling, and spent a month discussing it with various studios.



Satyajit Ray contemplates the progress of his latest film.

Although the interest seemed very strong, like his mentor Vittorio de Sica before him, he got fed up of waiting idly by the swimming pool and returned to the delightful bustle of Calcutta.

"When I saw *ET* I nearly had what would have been my first heart attack. To say that it bore a striking resemblance to my story is an understatement, and although Spielberg denies ever having read it, a script knocking around from one executive to another can easily 'leave a mark'. I was pretty sickened by the whole experience and resolved to never leave my beloved Bengal again," Ray recalls.

It is the first time since 1963 that Ray is not operating his own camera. But the faithful eye of his son, Sandip, who has directed 12 of his father's children's stories for television, has taken his place. "Sandip and I hardly ever need to talk about the shots, he knows precisely what I want and I think he is a great director in his own right. I was very lucky with

the equipment too. I have a wonderful camera, given to me by Ismail Merchant after he shot *The Deciders*."

"I am reading his account of that adventure right now, incidentally, and I find it fascinating. We are very good friends and he has encouraged me a lot with the idea of going back to a set," Ray says.

Looking back on his 26 films, made in 33 years, Ray has no hesitation in pointing to his favourite and most accomplished movie, *Charulata* made in 1964: "I had all the time in the world for that film and I felt I took care of all the minute details, going over and over again all the elements that made it such a powerful story."

It was also my only proper costume drama, except for *Home and the World* and I was able to research and design all the costumes for it."

On the set, Ray's best friend is the red-bound volume that contains his shooting script, the story-board and musical tracts,

jotted down in Bengali notations. On the day we visited the set he had left the second part at home and shooting had to be interrupted for someone to brave the subway to collect it.

Later, at home, he showed us the 50 or so toms that contain the secrets and the plans to all his films. The living room study, where Ray spends the best part of his time, is stacked with books from floor to ceiling and a portrait of Eisenstein over the piano keeps an eye on the cups and prizes he has won.

It is a modest house, on the second floor of an old Victorian building called McDonald Private Ltd, in the heart of Bishop Lefroy Road, a salubrious but not exactly a ritzy part of Calcutta. Bijoya, ever caring, ever present, carries in yet another tray of Bengali delicacies and points out: "Manikda (Ray's nickname since school), I think you should rest a little now. And besides, we don't need a doctor to know that it's tea time."

Christine Keeler tells her side of the story...

By Lorna Vee

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, having left her poor deprived background — a Wraybury caravan with no electricity — Christine became involved in the sexual antics of high society, bedded, among others, a Russian spy and War Minister John Profumo, and was embroiled in the scandal that rocked a government, and gave her name forever, fame. She was 19.

Scandal is the name of her new book in which for the first time Christine Keeler tells her side of the story. It ends with her being convicted and sent to prison for prostitution. It is also the name of the film to be released in March, which stars Joanna Whalley as Christine, which has catapulted the real Keeler back into the news.

The plot has all the ingredients of a best-seller — rags to riches to rags, a glimpse into high society, plenty of sex, infamous orgies, violence in the face of a jealous boyfriend, the seamy side of politics and intrigue. What intrigue!

"I wrote the book to get everything straight," says Christine, now 46, and living in a council flat in London's World's End. "I went to prison, yet I was innocent. I never was a prostitute. Apart from three weeks really."

And I wasn't a spy. There was no way Jack Profumo would have told me anything."

Maintains Christine now maintains that her then mentor, osteopath Stephen Ward, the man who introduced her to Jack Profumo as well as Russian Eugene Ivanov, was a spy.

"I even delivered Ward's letters to the Russian Embassy," says Christine.

She says she was so naive at the time, she had no idea what was going on. "I was only a kid. I should have gone to the police and reported what I thought was going on. But I've only put things together now."

Writing the book was also a form of self-analysis. She says she didn't enjoy the orgies and was ashamed of accepting money from men.

"You only had to look at me to know I wasn't a prostitute," she



Keeler, as she was at the height of her notoriety.

says. "I knew that certain things I did were wrong, but I was only young. I'm not ashamed. A lot of people go off the rails, it's just they don't tell the truth. I have. I don't have any regrets."

"It was never impressed that a Minister of War was interested in me. I didn't fancy him. I mean, he was an old man. No, I never felt powerful because he resigned. He brought about his own downfall."

Society

Her views on society are pretty damning, both then and now. She describes in the book the sexual hypocrisy of the Sixties. "It drove prostitutes off the streets in a feeble attempt to pretend they didn't exist."

"Meanwhile, sex orgies flourished behind the doors of the grandest homes."

So naive was the young Christine that after a few wild parties, she thought that all rich people lived like that.

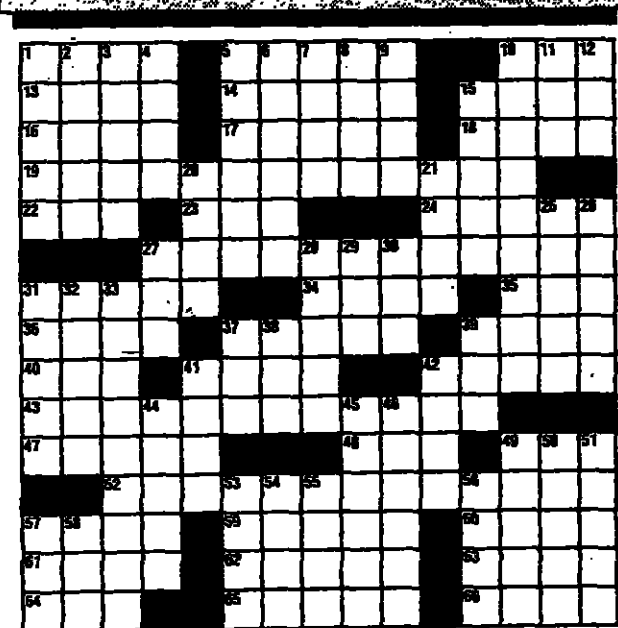
As for her affair with Jack Profumo, she still appears confused. On page 105 of *Scandal!* she says it was a brief affair "with little real communication. It had no more real meaning than a handshake or a look across a crowded room."

Yet just four pages later, describing how she wouldn't accept money from him other than as gifts for her mother, she says:

"I felt that what feeling there was between us would have been debased if I took his money."

Scandal! by Christine Keeler will be published by Granada Publications on March 3.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Colorful gem
 - "M-A-S-H" star
 - Crop
 - Indian title
 - Masterpiece in marble
 - Windstorm
 - Wine center in Italy
 - Baffling question
 - Quitting point
 - Getting cold feet
 - been
 - Burns' denial
 - So long, in Paris
 - Informal get-togethers
 - A Yokum
 - Came down to earth
 - Litchi, e.g.
 - Take on cargo
 - Grinder
 - Withered
 - Kind of verb: Abbr.
 - Rhine feeder
 - Covering more area
 - Take the consequences
 - Are
 - Siesta
 - Compass letters
 - Smooth ruffled feathers
 - Actress Pitts
 - di
 - Lammormoor: Donizetti opera
 - 60 Money in Istanbul
 - Chill
- DOWN**
- One of Joseph's brothers
 - Part of BTU
 - Foot
 - Valerie Harper role
 - Word on the wall
 - Goosefoot herb
 - Man of rank in Turkey
 - Those opposed
 - Not of the cloth
 - Plea
 - Singer Richie from Alabama
 - He loved Lucy
 - Solar disc of Amenhotep
 - Marionette maker
 - Titled
 - Cauchy tree
 - Bentley's st.
 - Famed architect of Barcelona
 - Gnar
 - Baking chamber
 - Habituate
 - Swiss town near Zurich
 - Four-poeter, e.g.
 - Western capital
 - Guido's high note
 - 30 Gleig title
 - of her
 - Own: 1950 Turner film
 - Cleansing agent
 - Egotist of myth

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

LOGICAL DEFENSE

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ 6 3
♥ A 8 7 5 3
♦ J 6
♣ A Q 4 3

WEST

♠ A K J 9 8
♥ K 10 9
♦ A 9 4
♣ 8 2

EAST

♠ 5 2
♥ J 6 4 2
♦ 10 5 3
♣ 10 9 7 6

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 7 4
♥ Q
♦ K Q 8 7 2
♣ K J 5

The bidding: North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♦ Dbt
Rdbt Pass 1 ♠
2 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Here's a tip that will win you many points: On defense, when you know that partner has little or nothing, but you need to find him with a point or two, assign him the weakest holding that will help your cause, and defend accordingly.

This hand was dealt in a national pair championship, which accounts for the third-hand opening bid. At rubber bridge or team play, we would suggest that South pass his aceless wonder which includes a bare queen. East left it to his partner to bail himself out, and the rest of the auction was natural.

West led the ace of spades. Against a no trump contract, that requests partner to unblock the queen if he holds it, otherwise to give count. Therefore, East started an echo with the five to show an even number in the suit.

It became vital to get East on lead for a spade through declarer's holding. The most West could hope to find in his partner's hand was 1 or 2 points, so the minor suits offered no hope of an entry. It would have to come from the heart suit.

It might seem that the shift to a low heart was called for. But South did not pass his partner's two hearts, which had to show at least a five-card suit, so he could have no more than two hearts. Rather than hope that his partner held the queen of hearts, West worked out a defense that would cater to the possibility of partner having no more than the jack. He shifted to the king of hearts!

When that pinned the bare queen, declarer was a dead duck. There was no way to prevent East from gaining the lead with the jack of hearts, and the defenders were able to collect three spade tricks, two hearts and the ace of diamonds. Going plus 50 was worth a ton of matchpoints for East-West.



"Hope they don't storm the walls now. The chips are nearly done!"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to do something practical and practicable only you must not beat about the bush. You should not try to do things by force. Do all you can to stay on good terms with those around you. Be reasonable.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

The better influence of the Moon coupled with that of Mars and Jupiter will help you to do the right thing at the right time. Others will be more sympathetic towards you. Make sure you allow for traffic jams and observe speed limits.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should consider an offer or proposal most carefully. Make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Venus' better influence will help you to sort out a personal problem. Be selective.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be able to do something practical and practicable only you must not beat about the bush. You should not try to do things by force. Do all you can to stay on good terms with those around you. Be reasonable.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You should not rely on others to do for you what you ought to do for yourself. You should take extra care when on the road walking or driving. There is no need to lose faith in yourself. Be lenient.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

Do not allow yourself to be invaded by doubts. Pay a little more attention to your health. Do not expose yourself to infection. Use just a little more common-sense. Be less resentful.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)

You will be able to have the last laugh, but do not gloat upon it. You may well have some good luck but do not bank on it. Show a little more goodwill towards others. Be cordial.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)

The Sun's less favourable influence will tend to make you feel rather restless. You should do all you can to avoid exaggerations and you should try to stay within limits. Avoid doing anything merely in order to avenge yourself. Be polite.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will be able to get a move on in a direction in which you have been making little progress of late. Avoid acting out of malice or spite. Instead show more goodwill. You should not place too much reliance upon your memory. Be tactful.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

The Sun's better influence will help you to keep out of serious trouble. You should think a little more positively and constructively. Make sure you do not spend more than you can afford. Be versatile.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

You are likely to get into bad habits unless you take positive steps to avoid it. You should not give up too soon but nor should you flog a dead horse. Avoid using credit cards as if they were not money. Be correct.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You must do all you can to avoid getting into a muddle. Do not believe all you hear, but then do keep your eyes and ears open. Take care you do not overtake yourself but do not just sit back and do nothing either. Be courteous.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ADA LINDH COST
POLK STELA ALTA
EISENHOWER REAP
STORER SARATOGA
NOEL TYLE
AGENDA SINDAR
CURDS THROE IDA
ADAY BISON PRAY
SIN BENTS CREME
ATTARS ERRORS
SITE SEAT
FILLMORE SIESTA
OBIE WASHINGTON
ROVE ASTON EAST
DRIP LEST BSA



"Of course I didn't forget our anniversary — I've been celebrating."

"I've fixed it, where can I get a decent cup of tea?"

SNIPPETS

POEA lifts ban on 27 countries

THE Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) lifted the ban on the deployment of domestic helpers to 27 more countries, including the Soviet Union, Nicaragua and Iran, after assurances were given that Filipino workers will be treated well in these countries.

The POEA said Filipino domestic helpers may now be deployed in 50 countries.

President Aquino imposed a world-wide ban on the deployment of domestics last year due to widespread reports of abuse and exploitation by foreign employers.

POEA said in a statement the ban was lifted on Bermuda, Cayman Island, Columbia, Algeria, Angola, Gabon, Morocco, Sudan, Yemen, Thailand, India, Macao, Korea, Bangladesh, Denmark, Netherlands, Andorra, Turkey, Monaco, Ireland, Indonesia, Tunisia, Mauritius and Syria.

Aquino ill with infected ear

PRESIDENT Aquino was sick last week with an infected internal ear which causes dizziness, vertigo and vomiting, the Malacanang doctor said.

"The President was in a very temporary or transient condition possibly of a viral origin affecting mainly the (bony) labyrinth or portion of the inner ear," said Ariston Bautista.

The President was given some medication, notably for vertigo, Dr. Bautista said.

President Aquino, however, failed to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) Asian department head P.R. Nervekar in their scheduled 4 pm meeting last week.

Job drive pays off

THE continuing effort of the government to create new job opportunities for Filipino expatriate workers, particularly medical health personnel in the United States and in other parts of the world, is slowly but surely paying off.

The country's various recruitment agencies, including the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), have been conducting various marketing campaigns to generate more job placements for Filipino workers.

Officials laud Aquino's efforts

IMF, Philippines reach agreement

PRESIDENT Aquino has announced that the Philippine government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached an agreement on more aid for the country and may sign it in May.

Plans for a country programme for the Philippines were presented to the President last week by members of the IMF and Philippine negotiating panels at Malacanang.

The President said a consensus was reached on a 6.5 per cent growth target set by the government for 1989, no new tax measures this year, flexibility in the timing of current expenditures to keep deficits within targeted levels, and large investments in key areas such as power.

A timetable for the completion of all policy and programme details has also been agreed upon.

Finance Secretary Jaime said that successful negotiations with the IMF will allow the country to avail itself of an extended fund facility of \$900 million and a contingency facility of \$400 million.

The IMF will send a working group in two weeks to work out the finer points of the proposed country programme to be submitted to top IMF officials for approval.

Nervekar director of the IMF Asian department said that given the goodwill and best efforts on both sides, he does not foresee

new obstacles to the signing of the agreement.

However, he said the Philippines will have to work for a strong rate of growth, investment, and savings performance.

He also corrected the impression that the IMF opposed a 6.5 per cent growth target by the Philippine government.

"This is a misunderstanding. Our adjustment programmes have always been growth-oriented," Nervekar said.

He added he does not doubt that the country will achieve the targeted growth rate, considering the performance of the economy in the past three years.

Nervekar said the economic growth of the country is "very

good, very impressive. Employment has increased, inflation and the balance of payment deficiencies are well under control, and exports are doing well."

President Aquino, the IMF official said, must be lauded for an impressive performance in the way she handled financial and monetary policies and carried out structural reforms.

Aquino told the IMF official that she never asked for any firm or individual and will not do so.

Expressing her satisfaction over the progress of the negotiations, the President stressed up the efforts at drawing up a final agreement and an acceptable country programme.

Philippine press hints at cover-ups

Military soft-peddalling on mutiny cases

By Eileen Guerrero

MANILA, Philippines, (AP): President Corazon Aquino vowed to punish mutineers "to the full extent of the law," but only about 10 per cent of almost 500 soldiers charged in attempts to topple her government have been convicted so far.

Sources close to the military judge advocate general's office predict most of the accused will either be acquitted or receive light sentences unless Aquino applies pressure on the military justice system.

Military courts have charged at least 488 officers and enlisted men with involvement in six coup attempts since Aquino took power in a February 1986 popular uprising against President Ferdinand Marcos.

Military records show that of those accused, 108 have been acquitted. Fifty-two have been convicted of mutiny and illegal weapons possession.

Under Philippine law, soldiers involved in any crime are tried by court-martial, usually a board of five to nine officers or enlisted men. Acquittals are not subject to review.

The acquittals have led to charges in the Philippine press of a military whitewash, and people with inside knowledge of military courts acknowledge there is a reluctance to impose severe punishments.

There are no reliable figures on



'Gringo' Honasan yet to be tried

the number of soldiers involved in the coup attempts, including the bloody Aug 28, 1987, mutiny in which at least 53 people were killed and more than 300 wounded.

But military officials say at least 2,000 mutineers took part in the August 1987 attempted coup — the last and most serious. Hundreds more were involved in the five others.

But many lower-ranking enlisted men were quietly released without charge because they were simply following orders. Others escaped, including former Lt. Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, leader of the August 1987 mutiny.

So far the stiffest sentence — 12 years at hard labour — was handed down to Col Oscar Canlas, leader of the January 1987 takeover of a private television station in Manila.

But, sources close to the military say Canlas, who was

convicted last May, is being held in relative comfort — complete with access to tennis courts — at a military garrison pending completion of a review of his conviction.

Last December, 41 soldiers were acquitted in an April 1987 attack on Fort Bonifacio, headquarters of the Philippine army. The military said the 41 were freed because of lack of witnesses.

But sources said prosecutors had sworn statements from witnesses linking most of the defendants to the attack.

The Philippine press has sharply criticized the military's handling of the cases, even hinting at coverups to protect morale.

In a recent editorial, the independent newspaper Philippine Daily Inquirer said the acquittals reflect an "esprit de corps" in the military that "assumes the form of a closed club, the members of which in each other's eyes can do no wrong."

Decision

A Western diplomat with links to the Philippine military said he suspects the courts will go easy on defendants to avoid worsening factionalism in the 160,000-member armed forces.

"I don't think anyone will be put up against the wall," said the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There may be a few who get punished, but I suspect most will get off lightly in the

spirit of national reconciliation."

A military lawyer, also insisting on anonymity, admitted that personalities ties and the "brotherhood of arms" often influence court martial boards.

"Before we write our decision on that piece of paper, our conscience asks us, 'can you live with this? Can you live with the thought that you sentenced a guy to be killed — a guy in your same uniform and the establishment'?" he said.

"Then my heart tells me — do this," he said, gesturing a "thumbs up," signifying acquittal.

In such an atmosphere, military lawyers say it will take pressure from the Aquino administration to overcome widespread sentiment for acquittals or light sentences.

One military lawyer, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the military justice system had become used to presidential pressure during the 20-year Marcos administration.

He said that during some major trials in the 1970s, Marcos himself would monitor proceedings via closed-circuit television and telephone prosecutors with detailed instructions on arguing the cases.

"That's not done now anymore," he said. "But if they (in the Aquino government) want these guys convicted, they will have to orchestrate it. Give us directives."

Laurel mission seen as bid to revive political fortunes

By Robert H. Reid

MANILA, Philippines, (AP): Vice-President Salvador Laurel's visit to Ferdinand Marcos' bedside in Hawaii had strong political overtones, commentators here say.

They say the hurried mission was aimed at reviving his moribund political fortunes and angling for right-wing support in advance of the 1992 presidential elections.

Last Saturday, Laurel returned from Hawaii carrying what he said were secret messages from Marcos for President Corazon Aquino.

Laurel appealed to Aquino's "Christian values" to allow the ailing Marcos to come home to die.

But Aquino refused to see Laurel, reflecting the low esteem with which the vice-president is viewed in Malacanang palace, the Philippine white house.

Furthermore, many political commentators accused Laurel of "grandstanding" in the sensitive national question of whether to allow Marcos to return from exile in Hawaii.

"The nakedness of Laurel's ambitions leaves little room for respect," wrote the liberal newspaper the Manila Chronicle. "It has become clear that the man is so obsessed with winning power that he would grab at straws to support his bid."

Influence

Laurel has so little influence with Aquino that it seemed virtually impossible that he would be able to convince her to relent and allow Marcos to return home.

But several congressmen and political commentators believe

Laurel's goal was to ingratiate himself with Marcos' followers, especially those in northern Luzon island, and use them as a base of support in the 1992 presidential campaign.

Inheriting the Marcos mantle would enable Laurel to outflank other potential centre-right candidates, such as Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who might appeal to those who would not support either Aquino or anyone seen as her favoured candidate.

Aquino has said she will not seek re-election.

"With the demise of Marcos, the so-called 'solid north' is in need of someone to rally around," said Rep. Florencio Abad. There is the question of who will be heir to the Marcos popularity or the Marcos magic in the north."

Together

The 60-year-old Laurel would seem to be an ideal "reconciliation candidate" to bring together a nation still deeply divided three years after Marcos was ousted in the February 1986 "people power" uprising.

Laurel announced he would run for president against Marcos in 1985 but stepped aside under pressure to become Aquino's running mate. A member of an elite political clan, Laurel maintains links to the business community and the military.

But a series of political blunders has reinforced his deeply entrenched public image as an opportunist.

After the bloody August 1987 coup attempt, Laurel travelled to military camps, ostensibly to investigate soldiers' complaints.

Before the television cameras, he would shout at the troops "Do you want communists out of government?" that brought

cheers from the troops but contempt from more liberal-minded urban voters, who joked that Laurel was becoming a "Filipino McCarthy."

In September 1987, he resigned as foreign secretary, citing widespread differences with Aquino on the communist insurgency and other issues. A year later, he called publicly on her to resign and call new elections, but she refused.

Instead of winning broad sympathy by his moves, Laurel began to slide rapidly into political obscurity. Manila newspapers and television stations rarely report his activities, and his speeches draw only modest audiences.

Despite Laurel's personal campaigning, his nephew, Benjamin Laurel, was defeated in the January 1988 race for governor of Batangas province, the Laurel family stronghold.

Since formally breaking with the administration last August, Laurel's attempt to organize a broad-based opposition movement have faltered. He has angled for support from various groups, including business clubs and southern landlords angry over the government's agrarian reform.

But last year, he complained to foreign reporters that he was virtually ignored by the Philippine press. His principal public forum in the capital has been occasional interviews by Manila's Tagalog-language radio stations.

"It would be a gross understatement to say that Doy has an image problem," wrote columnist Ed Olaguer in the journal, referring to Laurel by his nickname.

Robert H. Reid is the chief of the Manila Bureau of the Associated Press.

KAPILKU Mini Olympics on May 12

THE 9th Palarong Pilipino — Mini Olympics will be held on May 12, 1989 and the theme this year is "Bisig Ng Manggagawa." This prestigious sports festival, organised by KAPILKU, is open to all Filipinos. Registration starts today.

The following sports will be contested:

Men's and Women's Divisions: Basketball, bowling, volleyball, swimming, badminton, lawn tennis, table tennis, chess, darts, and track and field events.

Men's Division: Billiard, dama and sikaran (exhibition game).

Sikaran — a Filipino martial arts — will be an added attraction for the Palaro this year, says Manny Inserto, KAPILKU president. Sikaran is similar to karate and taekwondo, which is the Filipino art of foot fighting. Only pinan and kata will be contested in this sport.

The main objective of the Palaro is to enhance athletic talents in various sports and promote physical fitness among Filipinos in Kuwait. Inserto said.

Freddie Fernando, vice-president for sports and recreation, and chairman of the Palaro, promises that this will be "the most glamorous Palaro of all times. The object is to bring unity, camaraderie and harmony among Filipinos, said Fernando. He will be assisted by Willy Sabay in this project.

For details interested participants should contact Freddie Fernando on Tel. 5624509.



Willy Sabay (left) organizer of the 9th Palarong Pilipino Mini Olympics 1989, and Freddie Fernando, VP for sports and recreation.

KAPILKU dance display

THE KAPILKU dance troupe will show off their talents on Friday, Feb 24 at the Shaab garden on the occasion of the 28th Kuwait National Day.

They will display Filipino cultural dances like tinikling (the Filipino national dance), kuratsa, jota moncadena and pandango sa ilaw.

Troupe members consist of Helen Inserto, Gloria Ugalde, Rosale Austria, Jenny Brosoto, Rolly Paulate, Andy Reyes, Alberto Arriola, Raffy Sanchez, Danny Pangan and Billy Tagulayan.

Bong Pagutayao is the choreographer, while Buddy Patungan will co-ordinate the project.

Bayanihan attracts large numbers

An afternoon of fun and games



Guests enjoy the egg-bursting contest at Fridays KAPILKU get-together.

BRAVING the rather cold and windy weather on Friday, Filipinos from all walks of life in Kuwait gathered for an afternoon of fun and games at the church hall.

The occasion was a 'bayanihan' (get-together), one of the many projects initiated by the newly-elected officers of the KAPILKU, the association of Filipinos in Kuwait.

Over 150 Filipinos attended the get-together including the Consul-General of the Philippines embassy, Fortunato D. Oblena.

There was plenty of entertainment for those who attended with such intriguing games as an egg-beating and bursting contest, a newspaper dance, a banana-eating competition and a raffle.

Credit for arranging the games goes to the energetic Jenny Brosoto, ably assisted by Rolly Paulate and Milan Mendes.

Participants were also entertained by guest singers, Rico J. Milan Mendes, Balader Bert Arriola, Kernel Singh, Benny Perez and Rolly Paulate.

The bayanihan was emceed by Rod Cerezo, popularly known as "Mr Wonderful Voice", and assisted by the flamboyant Bony Pacutayao.

In his welcoming address, Manny Inserto thanked the sponsors, Anak Restaurant and Hatid Ligaya Abughosh International, Sarah Macarimbang, vice-president for social and cultural affairs, KAPILKU, said the aim of the project was to help those Filipinos who were homesick in Kuwait.

Free food and drinks were served to all, courtesy of Bobby Madayag, operations manager of Anak Restaurant while prizes were donated by Saleh Abughosh, general manager of Hatid Ligaya — Abughosh Int'l.

Gatekeepers were vice-president Jimmy Tadana, AVP Lulu Alejo, secretary Rosale Austria, Peter Cruz, Andy Paulate and Gloria Ugalde and Bobby Bautista. Helen Inserto was the bayanihan co-ordinator.

The next bayanihan will be on Friday, April 21, 1989 from 2.30 to 6.30 pm.

FLASSIK Valentine ball is a rip-roaring success



The Hagibis have their say.



The Al Sabah Health Region dancers.



The Village People in a song and dance routine.



Weng, Edgar, Albert & Suzette perform a duet.

A GALA ball heralded St Valentine's Day in Kuwait, (albeit a few days earlier) at the Al Afrah ballroom at Kuwait's Holiday Inn on Friday, Feb 10.

The Valentine extravaganza which has now become an annual event on the Kuwait social calendar was organised by FLASSIK, the association of Filipino ladies in Kuwait.

Over 500 people of various nationalities attended the dinner and disco show which lasted for over six hours.

The evening began with a welcome address by FLASSIK president Grace Fe N. Covarrubias and an inspirational message by the Philippine Consul-General Fortunato D. Oblena.

With the speeches out of the way, guests were treated to "El Noche de Amor" an impressive programme of music and group dances performed by local talents in Kuwait.

It is said that the Filipinos are a very musical people and this was very much in evidence with the talents on show.

Weng, Edgar, Albert and

Suzette began the programme with a "Song for FLASSIK." This was followed by a dance number from the Jahra dancers. Grace de la Fuente then serenaded the audiences with love songs, followed by song and dance routines from The Village People, the Al Sabah Health Region, and the Hagibis. FLASSIK and friends finally brought the house down with their rendition of "We Are the World."

The highlight of the evening was the coronation of the 'king and queen of hearts', who were chosen by lottery. 'King Al' (a Filipino) and Queen Ann, (a British tourist) seemed quite surprised at their sudden elevation, but happy enough to receive their prizes.

Gift vouchers were also won by participants in a raffle. Many guests said this was "the best, most enjoyable" Valentine ball ever organised by FLASSIK.

The charity event is a fundraiser for many of the social welfare projects launched by the association. FLASSIK has over 1,000 members and is currently involved in a membership drive.



A FLASSIK choral group sings We Are the World...



Guests disco the night away.



FLASSIK President Grace Fe N. Covarrubias



Grace de la Fuente



Queen of hearts, Ann



King of hearts, Al

Pioneering treatment in UK hospital

A baby is born — thanks to aspirin

Despite three miscarriages, Pam Cooper was determined to have a healthy bouncing baby. And she did, all thanks to a British professor — who prescribed aspirin

By Jo Mears

BABY Laura Beth Cooper certainly isn't a headache for her mother, Pam, but something of a miracle — the first child to be born in Britain thanks to aspirin.

Twenty-four-year-old Pam suffered three miscarriages because her blood was too thick to filter through the unborn child. So when she became pregnant for the fourth time doctors prescribed aspirin to thin the blood as part of a medical trial.

And after eight months of being in and out of hospital, Pam eventually gave birth to a healthy, bouncing baby, Laura Beth, who weighed in at 4lbs 6oz (2kg) — and gave hope to hundreds of other childless couples.

Pam, from Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, says: "When Laura Beth was born my husband and I were overwhelmed. We know the desperate sadness that childless couples go through. I'm proud that some day take hope from me and Laura Beth."

When Pam and her husband Christopher, 24, were first referred to a special clinic at St James' Hospital, Leeds, they were really at their wit's end. Pam had been trying for three years to have a baby and had lost them all — one at 14 weeks, one at 18 and another at 29 weeks.

Pam recalls: "I was nearly suicidal. I wanted a baby so much. Then when I started losing them, I became even more determined to have one."

"My sister had a baby after I had my third miscarriage and it was really terrible for me to cope with. I felt so jealous and bitter, I couldn't even talk to her."

"So when I was told to take aspirin, I was in such a state I would have tried anything if the doctors thought it would work."

Pam first tried to have a baby in 1984 but kept on losing them, so she and her husband consulted the local doctor. They underwent numerous tests but doctors could not pinpoint the problem. Eventually they were referred to Professor Richard Lilford at St James' Hospital, who specialises in the problems of miscarriages.

Pam says: "We had tests for about a year and then Professor Lilford said it would be all right to try again for another baby. I became pregnant quickly — we didn't waste any time!"

"Then at 14 weeks I had a special Doppler scan which measures the amount of blood flowing through the placenta to the fetus."

Scan The scan revealed that Pam's arteries were not supplying sufficient blood to the placenta which was why she was miscarrying. Usually when a woman becomes pregnant her arteries dilate, but in Pam's case they did not, so the blood was not getting through to the baby.

Then at 24 weeks Pam was advised to start taking aspirin — just 70 mg each morning with a glass of water.

The aspirin thinned the blood which had become too "sticky" because the platelets were being squeezed together through the narrow arteries. Aspirin is an anti-platelet drug and so is able to reduce this stickiness.

Pam recalls: "I was in and out of hospital for the rest of my pregnancy so that the doctors



Baby Laura Beth sleeps soundly in her carriage.

could keep me under strict observation.

"I also had a month of oxygen therapy. I had to lie all day with an oxygen mask over my face to ensure that the baby was getting enough oxygen via my blood."

"But I didn't enjoy the pregnancy at all because I was worried all the time that I might lose the baby. My husband took very good care of me too — he wouldn't allow me to lift a finger."

Baby

Shortly before the birth, problems set in when the baby's heartbeat became erratic.

Pam says: "I was watching the baby's heartbeat on a monitor when it started to fall. I really thought she was going to die. But eventually it went back to normal."

"But I had to be anaesthetised in the end and gave birth by Caesarean section because the baby was distressed."

"When I came round all my family were standing by my bed. I thought for a moment I must be at home."

"Then my husband showed me a picture of the baby but I wasn't able to see her at first because she was in the intensive care ward."

"I kept pestering the nurses to let me go and see her and in the end they wheeled me down there on my bed."

"I couldn't believe it when I saw Laura Beth. I kept asking if it was really my baby."

Today Laura Beth is 10 weeks old and fighting fit. Pam even hopes to have another baby before long, using the same method, if the same problem

occurs again.

Pam's consultant, Professor Lilford, adds: "Our trials do seem to be having beneficial effects although they are still in the early stages yet."

"About three per cent of the population suffer from the same problem, although it is more common with the first pregnancy. But I must add that expectant mothers should only take aspirin under strict medical supervision and in very low doses."

But Pam can't thank Professor Lilford enough for this pioneering treatment.

She says: "He's really got a heart of gold. At one stage I felt like giving up, but I told myself I must keep on trying. And it was worth it because now I have a beautiful baby girl — all thanks to aspirin!"

By Ann Kent

DEALING with brain-damaged babies is frustrating for doctors and heart-breaking for parents.

However, thanks to a new understanding of the damage process and pioneering work by doctors at London's University College Hospital (UCH), many of these tragedies may be avoidable.

Brain damage, usually caused by oxygen deprivation, is shockingly common. Twenty brain-damaged babies are born every day — one per cent of live births — and the numbers of mentally handicapped survivors are swelled by many others whose brains suffer through infection or physical injury. In many cases, these children also have major physical disabilities.

Cord

Often the cause of damage at birth is unknown, but a small minority of parents, successfully sue for damages causing problems for the medical defence societies which indemnify doctors.

Birth is a particularly dangerous time for the still-developing infant brain. Any resultant damage was once blamed on brain haemorrhages, but it is now realised that oxygen deprivation is a much more common cause of mental handicap and dis-

ablement.

The umbilical cord can become compressed, interrupting the flow of oxygen-bearing blood; the placenta, which passes oxygen from the maternal blood into that of the baby, may become detached from the womb; or the baby may have difficulty in breathing on its own.

Doctors have been unable to make an accurate assessment of the damage. However, a biochemical early warning sign has been detected: levels of phosphorus metabolites drop when the brain fails to convert oxygen supply into energy.

Also, it has been discovered that the brain can continue to function using its reserve energy supplies, and that irreversible damage may not set in for many hours, giving doctors a time window for intervention.

Medical and scientific staff at UCH have developed two devices for monitoring the newborn brain. The magnetic resonance spectrometer picks up the biochemical early warning signs, while the near infra-red spectrometer provides continuous monitoring of the oxygen supply and blood flow into the brain.

Both forms of monitoring are non-invasive, not requiring the insertion of instruments. The next stage will be the development of drugs to prevent irreversible damage.

It is now known that oxygen starvation sets up a chain of metabolic events, culminating in the production of a number of substances which poison brain cells. Osmund Reynolds, professor of neo-natal paediatrics at UCH, says: "We are waiting for new drugs which will break the metabolic vicious circle created by oxygen starvation."

Reynolds believes that eventually the monitoring equipment could also be used to assess the progress of damage in adult brains and to help prevent the less serious forms of brain damage in children which are not usually noticed until a child reaches school age.

"Meanwhile, we are measuring what has not been measured before, the flow of blood and oxygen into the newborn baby's brain. We are looking to see what is normal and what is not. Our new scanners allow the mechanisms of brain damage to be explored, preventive treatments (giving extra oxygen) to be tested, and decisions to be made about whether or not the child is likely to be damaged."

"The equipment which we have developed provides the best hope of achieving the major aims of intensive care, namely the maximum chances of survival for potentially normal children, but at minimum risk of salvaging hopelessly disabled ones."

Malaria spreading in Africa

By Robert Mahoney

ABIDJAN, (Reuter): When the sun sets in Africa young children face death.

Dusk brings the anopheles mosquito, bearer of one of the world's biggest child-killers, malaria.

The disease, which produces raging fevers and bone-jarring chills is on the rise, killing three million people a year and resisting the drugs used to fight it.

Half the planet's five billion inhabitants live in malarial zones and 20 million travellers a year pass through them.

Researchers are working on a vaccine but many specialists think even if it proved effective it would be too expensive to help the Third World.

Impact

Malaria's impact is hardest on Africa where climate, poverty, bad sanitation and ignorance provided an ideal breeding ground.

The painless bite of the blood-sucking mosquito kills more than one million African children annually, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Of the 300 million people a year in the world's tropical and sub-tropical zones who catch malaria for the first time, 90 per cent are African.

The line-up of morning at Abidjan's Treichville hospital is evidence enough. Young and old sit sweating or shivering, waiting for a handful of pills or better still a shot of quinine.

One mother hurls to her three-year-old son who wails with a 40-degree-Centigrade (104 Fahrenheit) fever. Like millions of other children the boy has never been given anti-malaria tablets and sleeps without mosquito net.

Drug will save his life this time before the fever reaches his brain. But they will not stop him being reinfected.

"Sanitary conditions in Africa are bad," said Dr Christian Vounard, a regional adviser for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water below 1,800 metres (5,500 feet) in anything from a carelessly discarded tin can to a lake. The mature female injects parasites into humans which incubate in the liver and then infect the blood causing the red corpuscles to burst.

Malaria means "bad air" in Italian. People once blamed the gases rather than the insects from the marshes where they lived for the disease.



It is in stagnant water like this that the anopheles mosquito breeds.

"For us it is a question of primary health care...teaching people about the disease, how to avoid it and how to use anti-malaria drugs properly," Vounard said.

That is an enormous task, according to malaria experts interviewed during an international conference in Abidjan this month.

For 20 years WHO thought it could wipe out malaria by spraying with insecticides, notably DDT, explained WHO West African director Dr Pie Masumbuko.

Ten years ago it admitted defeat as the mosquitoes grew resistant to chemicals such as DDT which themselves had been condemned as dangerous to humans. Realising it could do little to prevent people being bitten, WHO tried drugs to stop them dying of the bites, Masumbuko explained.

The front line drug was chloroquine, a cheap tablet-form medicine first used during World War II. It took just 15 years for the mosquitoes to grow resistant to it, first in Vietnam then in the whole of South-East Asia and India. Resistance also developed in north-east Brazil and Colombia, and finally surfaced in Africa along the east coast.

"Chloroquine resistance is spreading to West Africa which until now had been spared," Masumbuko said.

Creeping It is creeping clockwise through sub-Saharan Africa — south through Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, then north through Zaire, the Congo, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

Professor Dominique Richard-Lenoble of Libreville University in Gabon said up to 30 per cent of cases there were now chloroquine resistant.

Chloroquine is virtually useless now in large areas of South-East Asia and South America and the drug that replaced it in the early 1970s, fansidar, is going the same way.

"It took between 10 and 15 years of resistance to overtake chloroquine and fansidar in

South-East Asia," said Professor Hervé Maisonneuve of Lyon, France.

"But there only about five per cent of the population get malaria, in Africa it's between 60 and 80 per cent."

What hope is there for sufferers? The old standby is quinine, known since the 16th century for its anti-malarial properties. But it is usually given to cure rather than prevent the sickness, often in the form of injections or an intravenous drip.

This is fine in a modern hospital but in rural areas patients often get insufficient doses, badly administered so the disease roars back with a vengeance, doctors said.

A couple of bright spots on the horizon, however, have come from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington. Its discoveries have led to two new drugs — melfoquine and halofantrine, both in tablet form.

Preventive

Melfoquine stays in the body, long enough to be useful as a preventive for Westerners and others travelling to chloroquine-resistant areas.

Halofantrine, which is so new it has been approved for sale only in France and four African countries, is for those already suffering a malaria attack.

"These are good alternatives," said UNICEF's Vounard, "but they are too costly for most Africans." Doctors also concede that at least one of four forms of malaria parasite will eventually develop a resistance to these drugs.

That is why they are so anxious to ensure their proper prescription. Indiscriminate use of chloroquine helped hasten resistance to the drug.

So what is the experts' advice? For travellers to chloroquine-resistant areas take melfoquine, to other areas take chloroquine and another drug such as paludrine.

And for the millions who live with the disease each day? The best advice they had was "don't get bitten."

Lump in testicle a serious matter

By Ann Robinson

BOB CHAMPION owes his fame to horse-racing and his life to chemotherapy. At 31 he discovered a lump in one of his testicles which was removed and proved to contain a cancer. Further tests showed that cancer had spread to the lungs and he was successfully treated with chemotherapy. He recovered completely, enabling him not only to win the Grand National but also to father two children.

About 1,000 men develop testicular cancer every year in the UK and most are cured. Deaths still occur, usually because of delays in diagnosis. Professor Alan Horwich, a consultant radiotherapist at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, specialises in testicular cancer and he has observed that these delays usually occur because of embarrassment or fear.

Tumour

Bob Champion says: "I never dreamed it was cancer. Delaying the diagnosis nearly cost me my life."

Testicular cancer is by far the most common tumour in men aged 20 to 34. The number of

cases seen each year is rising rapidly in all countries in the West, for reasons which are unclear. There are two basic types of tumour — seminoma and teratoma — which comprise 50 per cent each of all cases.

Usually a general practitioner will be consulted when a lump or swelling in the scrotum arises which may be painful. Many cases of teratoma have spread, usually to the abdomen or lungs, by the time the patient is first seen. Such patients may complain of severe back pain or other problem.

There will be an examination and after a painless ultrasound scan of the area and blood test diagnosis is made. The next stage is examination of the testicle under general anaesthetic, when it will be removed if found to be abnormal. This results in no change in sexual function or fertility.

Most patients, once diagnosed, are referred to a specialist unit in one of the centres established around the country where further tests are performed to see if the cancer has spread. Treatment varies according to type and spread.

Overall, about 50 per cent of patients receive chemotherapy, 40 per cent radiotherapy, and 10 per cent require no treatment.

Chemotherapy is not so bad as it was. The man can bank his sperm, where appropriate, before treatment. Men who are fertile before treatment usually recover fertility after chemotherapy.

Over 90 per cent of patients with testicular cancer can be cured, and results continue to improve. A lump in the testicle should be taken seriously.

Agoraphobia: a woman's disease

By Mary Claire Mason

A WOMAN gets on a bus, sits down then begins to feel anxious. She notices her heart is pounding and worries that she is about to have a heart attack. She feels frightened, sure that something is wrong.

She feels trapped by all the people, and dreads drawing attention to herself, perhaps by collapsing. Finally she rushes off the bus. Feeling better, she walks home. From then on she avoids such situations in which she feels trapped and out of control.

Agoraphobia is the onset of symptoms — including dizziness, palpitations and faintness — caused by fear. Attacks happen outside the home, usually in public places, and may result in the person becoming housebound.

A large study in the US estimated that at any one time 4-8 per cent of the population were agoraphobic and that 6-12 per cent of people suffered symptoms at some time in life. Sufferers are mainly women.

Dr Peter Hayward, a psychiatrist, says: "People often suffer in silence, coping as best as they can." They lead restricted lives and only go out in trusted company. Agoraphobics commonly fear physical or mental illness or embarrassment (should anything untoward happen as a result of panic).

Why do people develop agoraphobia? One view is that it is a

result of the build-up of stress and anxiety; or that a recent calamity may trigger an attack.

A feminist psychotherapist might understand it via women's insecurity, rooted in establishing a separate identity from their mothers. Subsequent attacks occur through increased anxiety. Various approaches, including tranquilisers and psychotherapy, are used. One view, shared by Dr Claire Weekes, emphasises that it is important to try to understand what is happening during an attack, to accept and not fight symptoms, and to learn techniques to deal with anxiety.

Another approach is behavioural therapy. The patient learns new patterns of behaviour in situations which provoke anxiety. This is achieved via graduated exposure to the situation.

Dr Hayward is running a trial to assess whether tranquilisers help or hinder behavioural treatment. Participants are given eight therapy sessions, during which half receive a low dose of a tranquilliser and half a dummy. Relaxation techniques are sometimes employed. People learn to accept anxiety as a normal part of life. There is a follow-up after a year. Success is not guaranteed, but one important outcome is that tranquilisers may no longer be required.

● Agoraphobia: Simple Effective Treatment, by Claire Weekes, is published by Angus and Robertson.

Charting the way back to health for stroke victims

A NEW system for charting the rehabilitation of stroke victims gives better information to medical staff, relatives and patients, and has also been found to motivate patients toward recovery.

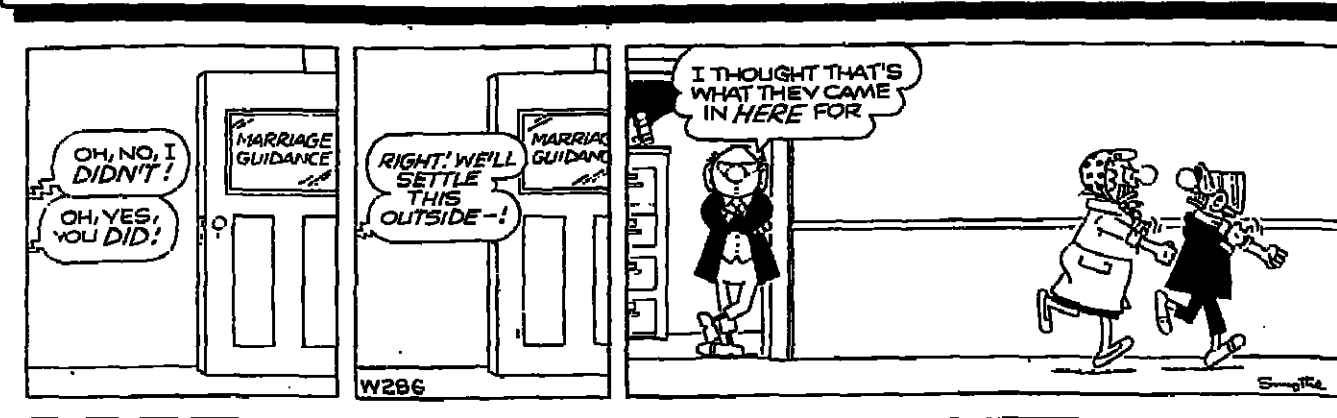
The key to the system, devised by therapists Claire Ritchie and Jane Lough at Gartnavel Hospital in Glasgow, Scotland, is a series of 12 symbols based on the human figure and signifying such relevant information as the ability to sit, move, dress, stand and so on. Stickers of these symbols are attached to a chart for each patient to convey simply and quickly the exact condition and capabilities of the sufferer.

Jane Lough explained: "What we wanted to develop was a simple method of communication for patients and their rehabilitation. It is important for everyone to be able to tell at a glance exactly how each individual has progressed. These charts not only do that but provide an incentive to patients, involving them in their own recovery."

Symbols constitute an international language. They are therefore far more suitable in this context and presentationally preferable to colour coding, bar charts or written word systems.

The Ritchie/Lough charts have been extensively tested with patients in Gartnavel Hospital and, following very positive results there, are now being used in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Malta, Switzerland and Canada.

ANDY CAPP



By Smith

W296

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRÜCKHEIM

ELECTRIC SHOCK A VALUABLE TOOL FOR ABNORMAL HEARTBEAT

QUESTION: I've been treated for an abnormal heartbeat for several months, without too much success. My new doctor advises that an electric shock might be used to correct the beat. It's a frightening thought. May I have your thoughts on this procedure?

ANSWER: Our heartbeats are regulated by a normal pattern of electrical activity. There are situations, however, that may alter the regularity and rhythm of the electrical flow, causing the heartbeat to become irregular. Since the function of the heart, to pump blood to the body, depends on all of the heart's chambers contracting in a precise sequence, any abnormality or alteration in the rhythm reduces the amount of blood that reaches the body's vital organs.

The procedure by which a controlled amount of direct current is used to restore a normal beat to the heart is called "cardioversion." Although not all irregular rhythms (arrhythmias) may be treated in this manner, your physician has decided that this treatment is appropriate in your case. He has used the length of time you have suffered with this abnormality, the type of arrhythmia, and the effects of various

medications you have already tried as important factors in making this decision.

In preparation for the actual procedure, he may prescribe new medications to help your heart switch back to a normal beat as well as medication that lowers the ability of the blood to coagulate, thus preventing possible clot formation. The procedure usually takes place in a hospital, where you can be closely watched and where your heartbeat can be monitored for several hours after it has been performed. You will be given an intravenous medication to relax and sedate you, before the actual version takes place.

In most cases, the patient returns home the same day, and returns to the physician's office for follow-up care. Cardioversion is an accepted, frequently performed technique to correct your condition, and it's considered to be quite safe. I'm sure that you will receive more detailed information from your physician about your personal condition, when you indicate that you are prepared to proceed. Let me know how you make out, and good luck.

QUESTION: I've been diagnosed with tinnitus. Besides the use of a hearing aid, my doctor spoke of employing a "tinnitus

masker" to help with the noise I've been hearing, but I'm not sure I understood what he meant. Can you explain?

ANSWER: Although science has not yet discovered the cause of that noise in your head, tinnitus remains a problem for as many as 30 million Americans. That constant buzzing, ringing, hissing or roaring noise can be most distracting, and many victims seek ways to overcome the annoyance.

Many people prefer an external sound to the one in their head, and a tinnitus masker is the device that provides such a sound. It looks much like a hearing aid, but instead of amplifying sound, it produces a type of sound that "masks" or covers over, the noise you're hearing.

If you have a hearing loss as well, an amplifying hearing aid and masker can be combined in a single unit. Maskers do not work for everyone, and some patients can obtain relief from simple background music, or devices that reproduce the sound of the wind, a waterfall or surf. You will have to try a masker for yourself to know if the device can provide you some relief.

1989 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

US stock market suffers broad retreat

Interest rates to move higher to dampen inflationary pressures

NEW YORK, Feb 11, (UPI): The stock market suffered a broad retreat this week, pulling the Dow down from a new recovery high to below 2300 amid signs that US interest rates would move even higher to dampen inflationary pressures.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which plunged 36.97 on Friday, closed the week at 2286.07, down 45.18 points on the week, or 1.9 per cent.

The 30-stock index has now declined in seven of the past eight sessions.

The only advance on the week came on Tuesday when the Dow jumped 26.07 to close the day at 2347.14, its highest close since the October 1987 collapse.

Loss

Analysts credited 'General Motors' announcement of a stock split and dividend hike as the spark behind a wave of renewed buying interest.

But it was all downhill from there. The Dow fell 3.93 on Wednesday

and 20.17 on Thursday before it suffered its biggest one-day loss in about three months.

Prices tumbled at the opening bell on Friday after the Labour Department reported that January producer prices jumped one per cent, the largest monthly increase since April 1981, and far above market forecasts of around 0.5 per cent.

The producer price index data heightened concerns that the pace of inflation would force the Federal Reserve to further tighten monetary policy and credit conditions.

"The rise in the PPI was a surprise that borders on being a shock," said Hugh Johnson, head of the Investment Policy Committee at First Albany Corp.

Rates

"There is no doubt the Fed will take the number seriously and nudge short-term interest rates a bit higher."

President Bush delivered his

fiscal 1990 budget address to Congress, calling for a one-year freeze in military spending and more money for non-defence domestic purposes like education and the environment.

The President's Thursday night speech was generally well received by Congress, but the nation's lawmakers were sceptical about his assertion that the budget deficit could be reduced to \$91.1 billion next year and eliminated in 1993 without raising taxes.

Bush proposed to do this in part by reducing what former President Reagan had wanted to spend on the military by \$6.4 billion in the next fiscal year, which starts on Oct 1.

Increases

Bush also proposed a one-year cap on cost-of-living increases in federal retirement pay, a move also sought by Reagan.

Bush's spending plan totalled \$1.6 trillion and was similar to what Reagan had proposed to

Congress. But Bush restored \$1.5 billion that Reagan sought to cut from Medicaid spending, and he proposed a controversial cut in the capital gains tax to 15 per cent from the current 28-33 per cent.

Bush's spending blueprint included a \$500 million merit programme for certain schools, a child care tax credit for low-income families, and increased funds to fight homelessness, acid rain and ocean pollution.

"There are many areas in which we would like to spend more than I propose," Bush said, "but we cannot until we get our fiscal house in order."

Ballot

To help the nation's thrift industry, he proposed \$1.9 billion in direct outlays for the huge bailout. The programme is expected to cost about \$90 billion in the next 10 years to pay off depositors in hundreds of failed savings and loan associations.

The government yesterday reported the highest one-month

jump in wholesale prices in almost eight years. The producer price index (PPI) rose a seasonally adjusted one per cent in January, boosted mostly by higher costs for food and energy.

For all of 1988, wholesale prices rose four per cent. The government estimated that if prices continued to rise at the January rate, wholesale inflation would total 12.7 per cent by the end of 1989.

The stock and bond markets fell after the report was released but the dollar rose. Higher US interest rates are usually good for the dollar because they spur dollar-denominated investments.

By early afternoon Friday, some of the nation's biggest banks had raised their prime lending rates by one-half percentage point to 11 per cent. It was the first time since 1984 the key interest rate has reached that level.

Banks use the prime rate as a

base to calculate interest on a variety of loans to consumers and small businesses.

The Treasury held its quarterly refunding during the week. On Tuesday, the first day of the refunding, the Treasury auctioned \$9.76 billion in three-year notes at an average yield of 9.18 per cent. On Wednesday, \$9.5 billion in 10-year issues were auctioned at an average yield of 8.91 per cent, and 30-year bonds at Thursday's auction averaged 8.91 per cent.

The largest corporate takeover in history was completed on Thursday with the expiration of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co.'s \$2.4 billion cash-and-securities tender offer for RJR Nabisco Inc.

Kohlberg Kravis, a powerful New York leveraged buyout firm, valued its offer for the food and tobacco giant at \$109 a share. When the offer expired early Thursday, 97 per cent of RJR Nabisco's shares had been tendered.

World Business Summary

Pertamina signs exploration contracts

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb 11, (AP): The state-owned Pertamina Oil Co. yesterday signed three new production-sharing contracts with foreign firms to explore for oil and gas in Indonesia. Under the contract, Enterprise Oil and Gas Council Exploration, both of Britain, will spend at least \$37 million over six years for explorations in the Panai area, about 1,000 kilometres (625 miles) northwest of Jakarta, according to Pertamina. France's Elf Aquitaine, which will operate in Merang, about 800 kilometres (500 miles) northwest of Jakarta, will invest \$26 million also for a six-year exploration, the company said. Japan's Indonesian Petroleum Ltd signed a 10-year agreement for offshore exploration of Panai and will invest about \$62.5 million, it said. Under production-sharing contracts, production will be split at the standard rate of 85 per cent to 15 per cent for oil and 70 per cent to 30 per cent for gas in favour of Pertamina. Last year Pertamina signed 10 similar contracts.

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Fed likely to tighten credit further

Market's early rally hits its first snag

NEW YORK, Feb 11, (AP): The stock market's early 1989 rally has hit its first snag, but the optimists of Wall Street profess not to be concerned.

In the face of negative news on inflation and a renewed rise in interest rates, a stretch of five consecutive weekly gains that coincided with the start of the new year came to an end this past week.

Many analysts say they wouldn't be surprised if the "correction," or period of retrenchment, lasted a while longer.

But the bulls argue that such a sequence actually would represent a happy development for investors who didn't get a chance to join in the party earlier.

Appraisal

"Signs that the current rally is maturing continue to pile up," said Joseph Feshbach, technical analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities, in his latest market appraisal.

Over the next few weeks, Feshbach says, the market may well undergo a "consolidation" in which the major averages fall

somewhere on the order of four per cent to seven per cent.

But he contends "the bull market is just beginning" for industrial stocks in particular.

"Since we remain very bullish long term, we suggest using the coming consolidation as a buying opportunity."

Similarly, the Merrill Lynch market letter says a "fairly shallow" pullback is in prospect over the near term.

"We think a renewed advance in the spring could carry the Dow Industrials to the 2,500 area before a more significant correction might occur."

Stern

"A change in investor psychology appears to be contributing more to the bullish atmosphere than any changes in the outlooks for the economy or corporate profits. Investors appear more willing to accent the positive than the negative."

This new upbeat spirit got a stern test in recent days when the Labour Department reported a much larger-than-expected rise

of one per cent in the US producer price index for January, and banks across the country raised their prime lending rates from 10.5 per cent to 11 per cent.

The producer price increase, the biggest in more than three years, intensified expectations that the Federal Reserve would soon tighten credit further.

At the close yesterday, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials stood at 2286.07, down 45.18 from the week before.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 2.49 to 164.01 on the week; the NASDAQ composite index for the over-the-counter market dropped 3.98 to 402.37, and the American Stock Exchange Market value index was down 2.11 at 322.77.

Enthusiasm

Volume on the Big Board averaged 191.09 million shares a day, against 186.79 million the week before.

While brokers naturally like the revived enthusiasm for

stocks, they are wary of seeing too much of a good thing. If everyone becomes a believer in the market, they reason, the rally that results could be explosive but short.

Memories remain fresh of what followed the high spirits and complacency that prevailed for much of 1987.

At the moment, however, most observers say a healthy amount of scepticism persists.

"A good sign — options traders are still pessimistic," asserts the Merrill Lynch letter. "Trading in puts (options to sell stock) remains fairly high in relation to trading in calls (options to buy stocks)."

Favourable

"We interpret this indicator on a contrary basis, so recent readings appear to be a favourable sign for stocks."

While optimism has been increasing steadily among investment advisers, reports Investors Intelligence of New Rochelle, New York, measures of sentiment "are still bullish and lots of cash is still on the sidelines."

Japan sets rules to prevent another share scandal

TOKYO, Feb 11, (Reuters): Japan's stock and bond market authorities said today they had drafted regulations to help prevent a repeat of the Recruit share scandal that has rocked politics and business.

Officials of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the Japan Securities Dealers Association said the rules would ban the private sale of stocks and bonds before they were publicly listed.

The Recruit scandal, which has caused the resignation of top politicians and businessmen including three cabinet ministers, began with the sale of shares to public figures before they were publicly offered.

Soared

People lucky enough to buy the shares early were able to reap huge profits when the shares soared in value on the stock exchange.

The new rules stipulate that investors who obtain shares before a listing may not sell them for one year after they are publicly issued.

Also, investors who obtain shares of already-listed companies before they are publicly offered may not sell them for two years after issue.

Exports expected to continue dwindling this year

Japanese automakers expand overseas operations

TOKYO, Feb 11, (AP): After a year of booming domestic sales but continued decline in exports, Japanese automakers are introducing new models and boosting overseas production to capture more of the global market.

Toyota, Nissan, Honda, Mitsubishi and Mazda all saw increased sales in Japan last year — records for all but Nissan — but reported sluggish exports, largely due to the continued high value of the yen.

Severe

Exports, which fell 3.2 per cent in 1988, are expected to continue dwindling this year, in part because of the yen's strength, which makes Japanese exports more expensive.

Jakarta seeks more Western aid Indonesia won't renege on debt

JAKARTA, Feb 11, (Reuters): Indonesia, one of the world's biggest debtors, promised not to renege on its debt but said it needed its Western creditors to provide further massive amounts of aid in the coming year.

"We would like to avoid debt rescheduling and non-payment of debt... we want to maintain our creditworthiness," Finance Minister Johannes Sumartono told Reuters in an interview.

He said he expects the country's major creditors would provide at least the same amount of aid in the new financial year, starting in April, as the record \$4.01 billion of soft loans and grants in 1988/89.

Instant

Indonesia's group of creditors meets every year in the Netherlands in June to discuss new aid.

"We have tried to obtain special assistance, meaning soft loans, untied which can be disbursed straight away," he said. "This is a kind of instant cash so that capital flight (for debt service payments) can be covered."

The new budget again earmarks just over half of its routine expenditure for debt repayments alone, leaving little for the government to spend on its own economy.

Indonesia's outstanding foreign debt stood at about \$40

billion in September last year, of which 35 billion was owed by the government.

"We always look for ways and means that will provide relief to us... in our foreign borrowings we try to get better conditions," Sumartono said.

Option

He noted a recent yen loan from Japan, Indonesia's biggest donor, gave Jakarta the option of repayment in dollars. Indonesia has been hurt by the sharp rise in the yen which increasingly dominates its debt while export earnings continue to come in dollars.

Sumartono said it was more difficult to get other countries to agree to such an option. But he noted West Germany had promised to make all loans from this year on easier terms.

He called on industrial countries to help all Third World debtors, not just the poorest.

However, he was optimistic following last week's meeting of finance ministers from the seven major industrial countries where moves were made to seek ways to ease the Third World debt burden.

Delegation

While Indonesia is to import crude oil worth \$15 million from Iraq this month, an Iraqi delegation has arrived here to study the textile industry as Baghdad is

keen to buy textile machinery from its fellow OPEC member state.

Indonesia signed a counter-trade agreement with Iraq and Iran last year under which it would buy 30,000 BPD of oil worth \$150 million a year from each country. In return, the two OPEC countries would buy non-oil goods from Indonesia.

Oil worth \$15 million was bought from Iran in November 1988 and the payment made in January this year, said Junior Minister Sudrajat Djihadono, adding "now we want to see if Iran will import our export commodities." No trade has yet been done with Iraq, though Jakarta hopes to be able to export 50,000 tons of iron worth \$22 million and plywood worth \$3.50 million to Iraq soon. Iraq may also buy tea and crude palm oil from Indonesia.

Implementation

Meanwhile, Indonesian President Suharto has instructed Trade Minister Arifin Siregar to monitor the implementation of the counter-trade agreement with the fellow OPEC member countries.

The President told Siregar and Sudrajat in a meeting that Iran and Iraq should buy Indonesian non-oil commodities equal to the value of Indonesian oil imports from the two countries.

Toyota, Japan's auto giant which has said it aims at 10 per cent of the world market, is opening two production facilities this year, in the Philippines and a joint venture with Volkswagen in West Germany. Overseas production is expected to surge a formidable 82 per cent in 1989; Toyota's joint venture with General Motors, new United Motor Manufacturing in California, forecasts 80 per cent growth in the year.

Toyota's recent decision to begin passenger-car production in Britain by 1992 is expected to heat up — some analysts say overload — an already intensely competitive European market.

Non-OPEC experts to meet

LONDON, Feb 11, (Reuters): Experts from seven Third World oil producing nations which do not belong to OPEC will renew talks in London on Feb 21 on how they can help defend prices, an official of Mexico's state oil company Pemex said in London.

The non-OPEC sellers are considering what they can do to assist the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in its effort to balance supply with demand.

The meeting will be on Feb 21 with the same people as last month, the Pemex official said today.

Intention

"The intention is to get together and then provide the official position of each non-OPEC country. Every country is supposed to come back with an idea of what kind of support they can give (to the oil market). The intention is that the meeting will last for one day."

Experts from the non-OPEC group met officials from six

OPEC states in London on Jan 26. OPEC hopes that ministers of the two sides will be able to meet later this spring and that the non-OPEC countries will agree on cuts in their production.

Effective Jan 1, OPEC introduced new output quotas for its 13 members intended which has cut their production by more than 15 per cent.

Crude oil prices have risen since OPEC clinched its own deal to cut output. North Sea Brent Blend, a world marker, is up some \$4 from last autumn at around \$16 a barrel.

But demand usually weakens during the northern summer, so OPEC is keen to get some help in propping up the market.

The seven non-OPEC states represented last month were Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman. They produce about eight million barrels daily, compared with close to 19 million by OPEC. But all are strapped for cash.

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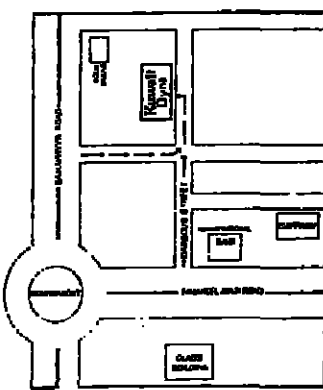
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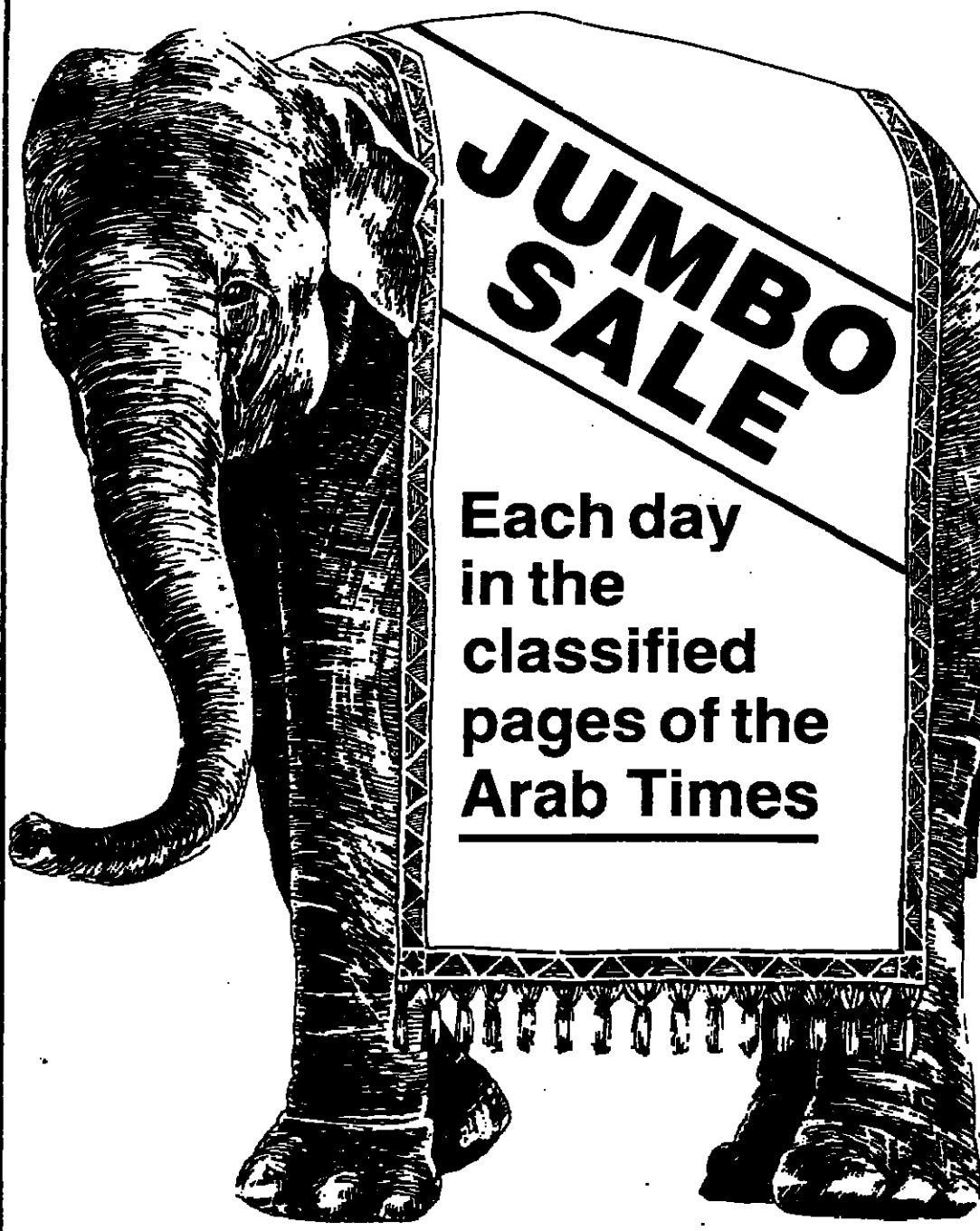
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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

SPORTS

NEW ZEALAND SCORE 447 IN FIRST INNINGS

Crowe hammers Pakistan for 174

WELLINGTON, Feb 11, (Reuters) New Zealand were all out for a first innings total of 447 at the close of the second day's play in the second Test against Pakistan today.

On a featherbed Wellington pitch the game already appears destined for a draw unless the New Zealand bowlers can produce a top performance.

The day was dominated by Martin Crowe, who scored 174, his 10th Test hundred and his fourth on the Basin Reserve Ground.

It was an innings marked by concentration rather than his normal classic stroke-play. Rarely did he dominate an only steady bowling attack, and there were long periods of slow scoring.

In total he batted just under six hours, faced 410 balls for an innings which included 16 fours. In the morning session he and his brother Jeff added just 47 to New Zealand's overnight total of 229 for four. The brothers added 114 in just over three hours for the fifth wicket.

Jeff Crowe, making a comeback after being dropped last year, was never at ease and was finally bowled playing the



Martin Crowe gets his 10th Test hundred

wrong line to Abdul Qadir for 39. John Bracewell attempted to take the attack to Pakistan but just as he was succeeding rain interrupted play for an hour. Bracewell failed to get going after the break and was bowled

for 15 of his arm attempting to avoid a short-pitched delivery from Pakistan captain Imran Khan.

The interruption and Pakistan's slow over rate meant the last session lasted nearly three-

and-a-half hours. An extra 15 overs was allowed for the rain stoppage.

Richard Hadlee followed Bracewell's example in a brisk innings of 31 which included three fours off a Mudassar Nazar over.

He went to a superb left-handed diving catch by Rizwan-uz-Zaman off Salim Jaffer's bowling.

All the while Martin Crowe was anchoring the innings until he finally fell to a tired attempt to hook, taken at slip by Javed Miandad off Salim Jaffer. Miandad must have rued not taking Crowe the previous evening when he was on 76.

Smith and Ewen Chatfield, provided some entertainment for the crowd at the end with Smith straight-driving a weary Imran for six.

They added 48 for the last wicket before Chatfield was run out by Rizwan for 14, leaving Smith not out on 40.

Imran bowled a total of 46.4 overs and for much of the day the runs scored from him were no more than the number of overs he bowled. He ended with three for 75.

Jaffer was steady but typified

Pakistan's negative attitude, often bowling outside the off-stump.

Pakistan's 16-year-old, fast bowler Aaqib Javed learnt some realities of Test cricket, finishing with none for 103 off his 34 overs.

Leg spinner Qadir got little turn and scant reward, just Jeff Crowe's wicket for 83 runs off his 29 overs.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings	
R. Vasee c Salim Jaffer b Mudassar Nazar	5
J. Wright c Salim Jaffer b Mudassar Nazar	7
A. Jones c Sheath Mohammed b Salim Jaffer	86
M. Crowe c Javed Miandad b Salim Jaffer	174
D. Patel lbw Imran Khan	0
J. Crowe b Abdul Qadir	39
J. Bracewell b Imran Khan	15
R. Hadlee c Rizwan-uz-Zaman b Salim Jaffer	32
I. Smith not out	40
D. Morrison lbw Imran Khan	14
E. Chatfield run out	14
Extras (b-10 lb-14 nb-11)	35
Total	447
Fall of wickets: 1-13 2-18 3-167 4-168 5-282 6-321 7-389 8-398 9-399	
Bowling: Imran Khan 46.4-18-75-3, Salim Jaffer 34-5-94-3 (nb-7), Mudassar Nazar 22-5-69-2, Aaqib Javed 34-5-103-0, Abdul Qadir 29-4-83-1 (nb-3), Asmer Malik 4-1-9-0 (nb-1).	

Nicklaus and Strange shine in Skins game

PORT DOUGLAS, Australia, Feb 11, (AP) Jack Nicklaus sank awkward birdie putts at the ninth and 12th holes today to win \$94,500 and share the honours with Curtis Strange on the opening day of the Australian Super Skins golf game.

Nicklaus was successful from 20-feet on the par-4 ninth and from 15-feet on the par-4 12th to collect Skins worth \$54,000 and \$40,500 in the contest against fellow American Strange, Australian Greg Norman and Isao Aoki of Japan.

US Open champion, Strange won four holes today — the second, third, 14th and 18th — and also earned \$94,500 on the first day of the richest Skins game in history.

Norman, who drove poorly, came up empty, while Aoki chipped in from off the green for a birdie at the par-3 15th to collect \$13,500.

Bonuses

The four players are contesting a pot of \$607,500, plus hole-in-one bonuses worth \$14 million, over 36-holes of the par-72 Sheraton Mirage Resort course, 50 miles north of Cairns. Under the Skins format, prize money for each hole rolls over and is added to the jackpot for the next hole if the hole is won.

Holes one to nine over the 6,272-metre (6,890-yard) course were worth \$9,000 and holes 10-18 were \$13,500.

Tomorrow, holes 19-27 will be for \$18,000 each and the final nine holes will each be worth \$27,000.

The players had to battle 90-degree Fahrenheit (32.2-degree



Nicklaus

Celsius) temperatures and high humidity today, as well as the picturesque but tricky Peter Thomson-designed mirage layout.

US Open champion Strange, winner of the only two tournaments he has played in Australia in the past 13 months, was the first of the quartet to earn money.

He fired a 5-iron to within 6-feet at the par-3 second hole and then calmly sank his birdie putt to pick up \$18,000.

"You don't generally get that sort of chance playing in this company," Strange said. The other three players all had bogey fours.

On the par-5 third hole, Strange then blasted out of a sand trap to the left of the green to within 18 inches and tapped in the putt for a winning birdie and an additional \$9,000.

His successes made immediate amends for his failure to win any money in the US Skins game against Nicklaus, Raymond Floyd and Lee Trevino at the PGA West course in La Quinta, California, last November.

Bruno set for move to Las Vegas

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz., Feb 11, (Reuters) Briton Frank Bruno boxed three rounds with battered sparring partner Mark Wills yesterday before closing up his Arizona training camp for a move to Las Vegas.

Bruno, who for the past month has been training in this Arizona resort community, was today to take up residence at the Las Vegas Hilton, site of his February 25 fight with world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, said the challenger plans to continue his training at Johnny Tocco's gym where Tyson has been preparing for their title fight.

"Don't worry," Lawless said. "We won't be working at the same time."

Wills, who replaced heavyweight James Pritchard as Bruno's main sparring partner last week, was wearing a 'flak' jacket in the ring to protect his ribs which have taken a beating from the British heavyweight over the past three days.

Sedate

The jacket was a gift from American football player Stump Mitchell, a running back for the Phoenix Cardinals.

Bruno's camp, while sedate by Tyson standards, has had its share of problems in the area of sparring partners.

Four boxers have left the Bruno camp at one time or another during training, including light-heavyweight Bert Cooper, who packed his bags on Wednesday.

Cooper's defection left Bruno with just Wills and heavyweight Terry Armstrong as sparring partners.

Lawless said he plans to take both men to Las Vegas and thinks they will be able to provide Bruno with enough ring work to stay sharp.

Napa retains WBC crown

KORAT, Thailand, Feb 11, (Reuters) Thailand's Napa Kiatwanchai floored Indonesia's John Arif twice in two rounds as he retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) strawweight title today with a unanimous points win.

The southpaw downed Arif with a juddering short right cross seconds before the end of the seventh round and again in the eighth after dazing him with a swinging left hook.

Dominated

Boxing with style and controlled power, the champion dominated from the opening round and was awarded a crushing victory by the three judges who scored the bout 120-107, 119-104 and 120-107.

Apart from a few flurries in the early rounds and a vain, lunging attempt to redress his huge points deficit in the closing stages, Arif always looked the weaker boxer.

Thomas beats Watson to retain trophy

THE K.B.R.C. Kuwait Darts League held their annual Ladies Doubles and Captain's Cup competitions at the Gazelle Club, Abu Halifa on Thursday. As usual, a high standard of darts was seen throughout the evening. The vagaries of the unseeded draw system produced an unbalanced look to the men's event, but Stuart McDougal and John Watson both made the most of their good fortune in claiming semifinal places, with Watson coming out a 2-0 winner to make the final.

Meanwhile, in the other half of the draw, some classic confrontations were taking place. Last year's beaten finalist, Nobby Burton, survived several slow starts to beat Terry Slattery, Tony Robinson, and Wayne Mooko, each time in the third leg. An excellent 3rd round clash between the 1988 men's singles finalist and 1988 men's doubles finalist saw Ian Thomas and John Donovan take a 2-0 lead. Thomas was very close to a 14-dart finish, missing the bull by the smallest of margins, but as Donovan closed in for his finish, Thomas managed to find the required double two.

The second semifinal gave Burton the opportunity to avenge his 1988 final defeat against Thomas. Both the first legs were close, as each player scored well, and at 1-1 the stage was set for a superb final leg. Thomas started with 100, only to see Burton blast a maximum 180. Burton kept the pressure on with another 100 and as he moved at a two figure score, Thomas still needed 230. Another 100 still left Thomas with a lot to do, as Burton reached his double. His nerve had not deserted him however, as he snatched victory from Burton with treble 20, 20, bull for a 130 finish.

The final itself was more restrained, as John Watson only really found form in the second leg, hitting three 100 scores. Again going to a deciding leg, Thomas did just enough to stay ahead, and took the trophy on his first dart at double 16.

The Ladies Doubles competition also produced mainly three-leg affairs, as the girls battled it out in the deciding doubles. Defending champions Irene Burton and Dorothy Carr reached the 3rd round before defeat this time, whilst League leaders Filles got both their pairs into the last 8, with Wendy Lindley and Brigitte Scheussner eventually losing to Elaine Swaden and Diane Sime in the semifinals. The second berth for the final was won by Hilary Milne and Shoa Yacob Yusef, as they narrowly defeated Ruth Gollage and Audrey McKenzie. Predictably the final also went down to the last couple of the 3rd leg, as four evenly matched girls were only separated by Hilary's winning shot, to make herself and Shoa the new champions.

The main K.B.R.C. League news this week was Straight As A Dai beating Cottar House 4-2 and 2-0, as Baggs defeated Exiles 5-1 to stay with the Dai's, now both 3 points clear at the top. There were also wins for Members and Cunning Linguists whilst Ragamuffins and Bandits, and Mishraf and Exiles all shared the points in their games.

There were Wednesday wins for Has Beans, Shower of Tossers, Equalisers, Middle Easterners, Nobblers, H2O and Soweto Slingers, as all won both ladies and men's matches. Fintas Flyers gained a second point in a 3-3 draw with Dinar Soarers, but again couldn't stop Filles, losing 1-2.

Deloach triumphs in 60 metres

Bubka shatters pole vault record

OSAKA, Japan, Feb 11, (Agencies) Soviet pole vaulter Sergei Bubka broke a week-old world indoor record today when he leapt 6.03 metres in the Osaka International Indoor athletics meeting.

The Olympic champion bettered the previous mark of 6.02, set by his compatriot Radion Gataulin in Moscow last Saturday.

Bubka, also holder of the world outdoor record of 6.06 metres, cleared the fresh indoor mark on his third attempt.

"I'm very happy because today's record came unexpectedly. I made no special preparations for the indoor meet," said Bubka, who arrived in Osaka last night.

The Russian made three unsuccessful attempts at 6.10.

Bubka, who has regularly improved his own record since 1984, reiterated his confidence in being able to clear 6.20 in the conditions.

But he said he planned to compete in only three or four domestic meetings later this year, adding that taking a rest was his goal for 1989.

No other world records were set in the one-day meet.

Tim Bright of the United States finished second in the pole vault, clearing 5.70 metres, five centimetres short of his best mark.

Joe Deloach of the United States, gold medalist in the 200-metre event in the Seoul Olympics, won the men's 60-metre in 6.60 seconds, while compatriot Evelyn Ashford, silver medalist in the 100-metre at Seoul, won the women's 60-metre event in 7.28 seconds, ahead of Jamaican Grace Jackson's 7.41 seconds.

In other men's events, Mike Powell of the United States, a silver medalist at the Seoul Games, won the long jump, leaping 8.04 metres.

Mike Macinko of the United States won the 800-metre race with a time of 1:50.68, followed by Ryoichi Kurihara, who set a new Japanese record of 1:50.92.

James Hargett of the United States captured the 400-metre in 49.97, ahead of compatriot Kyle Hargett, who finished in 49.28.

Japan's Takahiko Miura won the 1,500-metre in 3:51.06, beating Johan Engholm of Sweden, who was timed at 3:51.11.

The Colorado University team captured the 4-by-400 event with a time of 3:16.81, edging out the Japan selection team, which was timed at 3:16.84, the former meet record.

The US team consisted of Chris Imhoff, Mike Macinko, Steve Provenzano and Kyle Hargett.

Patrik Sjoberg of Sweden, who won a bronze medal at Seoul, took the high jump, leaping 2.25 metres. South Korea's Cho Hyun-uk was second with 2.15.

World record holder Willie Banks of the United States took the triple jump with a leap of 16.21 metres, far below his world record of 17.97. Second was Toshiro Ogura of Japan at 16.09. Taiwan's Nai Fui-Feng was third at 15.69.

In the women's events, Olga Nazarova of the Soviet Union won the 400-metre with a time of 55.81 seconds. Tamara Bykova of the Soviet Union took the high jump by sailing 1.94 metres. Compatriot Olena Turchak had an identical 1.94 metres, but had to settle for second place because of attempt differentials.



Sergei Bubka

Lewis third in indoor 60 metres

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, Feb 11, (Reuters) Olympic 100 metres gold medalist Carl Lewis was beaten into third place over 60 metres at an indoor athletics meeting yesterday in this northern Spanish city.

Cuban Andres Simon won the race in 6.50 seconds, with American Mark Witherspoon second in 6.59 seconds, just ahead of compatriot Lewis who clocked 6.60 seconds.

Lewis got off to his characteristically slow start. He was clearly lagging behind his rivals after just 10 metres and ran out of time to recover.

Reluctant

Simon and Witherspoon lunged for the line together and the American appeared reluctant to accept his defeat until he watched a slow-motion replay of the race.

Brazil's Joaquim Cruz, 1984 Olympic 800 metres gold medalist and the silver medal winner over the distance in Seoul, clocked the fastest time of the year of 1:47.30 as he won from compatriot Jose-Luis Barbosa. Olympic champion Steve



Lewis (extreme right) crosses the finish line in third place. Simon (extreme left) won the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lewis cruised to victory over Nigeria's Innocent Egbunike and Spain's Antonio Sanchez in a 400 metres while outdoor world record holder Javier Sotomayor of Cuba stole the honours on comeback after a disappointing high jump competition. Spaniard Jose Luis Gonzalez

gave the home crowd something to cheer when he romped away with a 2,700 metres, winning in a time of 7:50.23. France's Jacky Carrier finished second in 7:51.97 after struggling to keep with the pace over the closing stages while Denmark's Mogens Guldgers took third.

Canadian coach did little to stop steroid use

MONTREAL, Feb 11, (Reuters) Andrej Kulesza, Canada's national weightlifting coach, testified yesterday that he could have done more to punish athletes who admitted to him that they were taking banned anabolic steroids.

"I probably could have acted differently," Kulesza told reporters after testifying before the Canadian inquiry into use of drugs in amateur sport.

Hearings

"It's easy to talk after the facts, it's hard to act in a particular situation," he said as the inquiry headed by Justice Charles Dubin wrapped up eight days of hearings on doping in weightlifting.

In his second day of testimony, Kulesza admitted that he learned on four separate occasions since his hiring in 1983 that athletes were using steroids, but took no disciplinary action.

Kulesza said he and the Canadian Weightlifting Federation decided to let the athletes go through drug tests, rather than throw them off the team.

Aouita runs 2nd fastest 3,000 metres indoors

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., Feb 11, (Reuters) Said Aouita of Morocco held off a surprisingly strong challenge from American Steve Scott and clocked the second fastest 3,000 metres ever run indoors at the Meadowlands Invitational Athletics Meet yesterday.

Aouita, world outdoor record holder over 1,500, 2,000 and 5,000 metres, finished in seven minutes 39.71 seconds. The indoor record for 3,000 metres of 7:39.20 was set in 1973 by Emil Purtemans of Belgium.

Previous

Scott, who began his kick with Aouita, set an American record of 7:39.94 just by staying on the Moroccan's heels throughout the final lap. The previous American best was 7:41.57 set at this meet last year by Brian Abshire, who finished third in 7:41.84.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the Olympic champion in the heptathlon and long jump, edged out fellow American Kim McKenzie to win the women's 55 metre hurdles in 7.40 seconds — three tenths of a second off the world best

she equalled last week in New York at the Millrose Games.

Joyner-Kersey caught a piece of both the second and last hurdles with her trail leg, but still managed to lean into the tape just ahead of McKenzie to continue her recent dominance of her latest event.

Paula Ivan threatened the world mark of 4:18.86 in the women's mile with a 4:18.99 clocking — the second fastest ever. Ivan was helped in her record attempt by a fast pace set by fellow-Romanian Dojina Melinte, the world record holder in the event. Canadian Lynn Williams finished a distant second in 4:28.17.

Melinte had earlier won the women's 800 metres in 2:00.70, edging out American Joetta Clark, who clocked 2:00.98.

Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland easily won the men's mile. His time of 3:51.66 was the fifth fastest indoor mile and good enough for a comfortable victory over American Sydney Marce, who was second in 3:55.34 and Ireland's Frank O'Mara, who was third in 3:56.23.

Jack Pierce continued his surprising domination of the men's hurdles.

Pierce captured his fourth victory in five races this season, clocking 7.04 to finish ahead of Olympic silver medalist Tonie Campbell and Arthur Blake, another US Olympian.

Pierce entered the season a solid hurdler, but a notch below people like Roger Kingdom and Greg Foster. Now, with more time to train, Pierce is showing he is capable of moving into the elite class.

Picked

Last week Pierce quit his job cleaning slot machines at Harrah's Casino in Atlantic City, giving up the \$6.85 an hour he earned and any loose quarters he picked up on the side.

"Since I've started winning more, it's become more fun," said Pierce, 26, who finished fourth at the 1987 World Outdoor Championships. "I've waited to see how it felt like to win. I always felt like I could run with the best. I'm really beginning to believe in myself."



Aouita: failed to collect another record

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Bradford boss

LONDON, Feb 11, (Reuters): Terry Yorath was cleared yesterday to take over as manager of Bradford City when a week-long injunction barring him from joining the English Second Division club was lifted.

Cup break

LONDON, Feb 11, (AP): Nine English soccer League matches, including all but two in the First Division, have been postponed from the March 4 schedule to help England's national team prepare for a World Cup qualifying match against Albania, the League announced yesterday.

Soccer transfers

EAST BERLIN, Feb 11, (Reuters): East Germany has ruled out soccer transfers to the West despite deciding to cash in more on the success of its sports stars to cover the rising cost of international competition.

Appeal rejected

GENEVA, Feb 11, (Reuters): The European Football Union today rejected an appeal by Italian club Napoli against a three-match ban on midfielder player Fernando di Napoli for violent play.

Philippine Open

PUERTO AZUL, Philippines, Feb 11, (Reuters): Sweden's Mats Lanner equalled the course record with a third round six-under-par 65 today to storm into a five-stroke lead in the Philippine Open golf championship.

Australian golf

MELBOURNE, Feb 11, (Reuters): Peter Fowler beat defending champion Roman Rafferty of Britain and fellow-Australian David Smith to reach the final of the Australian Matchplay Golf Championship today.

Hawaiian Open

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Feb 11, (Reuters): Jim Carter became the early leader in the second round of the \$750,000 Hawaiian Open but a rain delay prevented nearly one-half of the field of 144 players from finishing.

W. Australia

HOBART, Australia, Feb 11, (Reuters): Western Australia beat Tasmania by eight wickets in the one-day cup cricket competition today. Scores: Tasmania 121 (Tom Moody three for 24) Western Australia 125 for two (Geoff Marsh 66 not out).

Soviet boxers

MOSCOW, Feb 11, (Reuters): A group of American trainers will try to recruit six Soviet boxers to fight professionally in the United States, the government newspaper Izvestia said yesterday.

Star guards

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. Feb 11, (Reuters): Former star guards K.C. Jones and Lenny Wilkens were named to the basketball Hall of Fame and will be inducted on May 9, the National Basketball Association (NBA) announced yesterday.

Team selectors

SYDNEY, Feb 11, (Reuters): Australia's cricket selectors were yesterday given the freedom to choose as many players as they want in a bid to wrest back the Ashes during the tour of England later this year.

Maleeva wins

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, Feb 11, (AP): Sixth-ranked Manuela Maleeva's strong baseline shots enabled her to cruise past ninth-ranked Zina Garrison, 6-4, 6-0, in a Euro-America's Cup tennis match last night.

Fernleaf Classic

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb 11, (AP): Unseeded Australian Jo-Anne Faull upset fifth-seeded Sandra Wasserman of Belgium 6-3, 6-3 today to reach the final of the \$50,000 Fernleaf Classic women's tennis championships.

Soviet athletes

NEW YORK, Feb 11, (AP): Rodion Gataulin, world indoor record-holder in the pole vault, will lead four Soviet Olympic medalists who will compete in the Mobil Indoor Track and Field Championships on Feb 24 at Madison Square Garden, meet officials announced today.

World best

BONN, Feb 11, (Reuters): East Germany's Susanne Boernike sliced more than a second off her own world best time in the short-course women's 200 metres breaststroke at the Bonn World Cup swimming meeting today.

Patrick Kuehl of East Germany won the 400-metre individual medley yesterday. Kuehl's time of 4:13.79 minutes brought him within 43 hundredths of a second of Hungary's Jozsef Szabo's European best time.

UNITED BEAT WEDNESDAY FOR SIX WINS IN A ROW

Arsenal rally to edge Millwall

LONDON, Feb 11, (Reuters): English First Division leaders Arsenal maintained their three-point advantage over Norwich today when they came from behind to grab a hard-earned 2-1 win at Millwall.

Second-half goals by winger Brian Marwood and England striker Alan Smith secured all three points for Arsenal after winger Jimmy Carter had headed seventh-placed Millwall ahead in the 15th minute of a keenly-contested London derby at the Den.

The win extended Arsenal's unbeaten run to 10 League matches and took their tally to 50 points from 23 matches.

Norwich beat seventh-placed Derby 1-0 with a 52nd minute goal from Scottish striker Robert Fleck to carry their total to 47 points from 24 outings.

Double

It was Norwich's first home League win of 1989 and completed their first double of the season.

With third-placed Coventry losing 2-1 at home to struggling Newcastle and Nottingham Forest held 0-0 at home by Queen's Park Rangers, Manchester United moved up to third by winning 2-0 at Sheffield Wednesday.

Scottish international strike Brian McClair scored in each half as United reeled off their sixth successive win.

For Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough, making his

last touchline appearance of the season at a League match, his team's goalless draw was a double disappointment.

Forest's extraordinary run of 10 straight League and Cup wins came to an end and they missed a perfect opportunity to move up to third with Coventry's surprise defeat.

Clough was banned from the touchline and fined £5,000 (\$8,770) for bringing the game into disrepute by punching supporters who ran on to the Forest pitch after the team's 5-2 League Cup win over Queen's Park Rangers on Jan 18.

The ban does not come into effect until after Forest's FA Cup tie next week.

Coventry, missing the scoring power of suspended Scottish forward David Speedie, were well beaten by 19th-placed Newcastle and slipped to fifth.

John Hendrie opened the scoring after 50 minutes and Brazilian striker Mirandinha completed it after 69 with a penalty after an own goal by Frank Pingel had brought Coventry level again.

Newcastle's victory was their first in 10 games but did not affect their place one from the bottom above only West Ham.

Two other struggling clubs, Southampton and Charlton, had their hopes of victories dashed when, after leading, they were forced to settle for draws.

Southampton, seeking their



Brian McClair

first League win of 1989, led Everton 1-0 thanks to a 22nd minute header by defender Kevin Moore but Irish international midfielder Kevin Sheedy equalised for the Merseyside team in the 69th minute.

The point Southampton gained lifted them from 15th to 14th in the table above Luton who did not play today. They meet West Ham tomorrow in a televised first leg of their League Cup semifinal.

Results

English Division One
Coventry 1 Newcastle 2

Millwall 1 Arsenal 2
Norwich 0 Derby 0
Notts Forest 0 QPR 0
Sheffield Wed 0 Manchester U 2
Chelsea 3 Swindon 2
Southampton 1 Everton 1
Tottenham 1 Charlton 0
Wimbledon 1 Aston Villa 0

Postponed: Liverpool v Luton, West Ham v Middlesbrough

English Division Two

Birmingham 0 Bournemouth 1
Bradford 1 Plymouth 1
Brighton 1 Leicester 1
Cardiff 3 Swindon 2
Crystal P 2 Blackburn 2
Hull 3 Shrewsbury 0
Manchester C 4 Ipswich 0
Oxford 1 Portsmouth 0
Stoke 0 Oldham 0
Sunderland 0 Walsall 3
Watford 1 Leeds 1
West Brom 1 Barnsley 1

English Division Three

Bolton 1 Swansea 0
Brentford 0 Chester 0
Bristol C 1 Gillingham 1
Bristol U 0 Walsall 0
Cardiff 3 Notts County 0
Huddersfield 0 Port Vale 0
Mansfield 4 Blackpool 2
Northampton 1 Blackpool 2
Preston 1 Bristol R 1
Reading 1 Bury 1
Wigan 2 Aldershot 2
Wolves 5 Fulham 2

English Division Four

Cambridge 6 Hartlepool 0
Darlington 1 Leyton O 3
Hereford 3 Lincoln 3
Rochdale 0 Doncaster 0
Rotherham 2 Carlisle 1
Scunthorpe 2 Exeter 0
Torquay 0 Scarborough 1
Wrexham 1 Doncaster 1
York 5 Peterborough 1

Scottish Premier Division

Celtic 1 Motherwell 2
Dundee U 1 Rangers 1
Hearts 3 Dundee 1

Postponed: Hamilton v Aberdeen, St Mirren v Kilmarnock

Scottish Division One

Airdrie 2 Forfar 1
Dumfries 1 St Johnstone 0
Meadowbank 1 Raith 3

Postponed: Clydebank v Queen of the South, Kilmarnock v Clyde, Morton v Falkirk, Partick v Ayr

Scottish Division Two

Albion 3 Alloa 2
Brechin 2 Queen's Park 0
East Fife 1 Sunnyside 2
Sirling 1 Arbroath 1

Postponed: Dumbarton v Berwick, East Stirling v Cowdenbeath, Stenhousemuir v Montrose

Standings

English and Scottish Football League tables after matches played today (tabulate under - played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

English Division One

Arsenal 23 15 5 3 50 24 50
Norwich 24 13 8 3 36 25 47
Manchester U 24 10 9 5 34 19 39
Notts Forest 24 9 11 4 34 26 38
Coventry 24 10 7 7 33 37 37
Liverpool 23 9 9 5 30 20 36
Millwall 23 10 6 7 35 30 36
Derby 23 10 5 8 28 18 35
Everton 23 8 7 8 27 32 32
Wimbledon 23 9 5 9 27 30 32

English Division Two

Chelsea 28 15 9 4 59 29 54
Manchester C 28 15 8 5 43 24 53
Watford 28 14 6 8 42 29 48
Blackburn 28 14 6 8 46 40 48
West Brom 28 12 10 6 46 27 46
Bournemouth 28 13 4 11 31 43 43
Crystal P 27 11 9 7 43 35 42
Barnsley 28 11 9 8 39 37 42
Leeds 28 10 11 7 34 26 41
Stoke 28 11 8 9 34 44 41
Sunderland 28 10 10 8 36 32 40

Scottish Premier Division

Rangers 26 17 4 5 42 30 38
Dundee U 26 13 10 3 36 13 36
Celtic 26 15 7 4 37 27 52
Aberdeen 25 10 12 3 32 22 32
Hibernian 25 10 7 8 28 23 27
St Mirren 25 9 6 10 27 34 24
Hearts 26 6 10 10 27 29 22
Dundee 26 5 9 12 23 33 19
Motherwell 26 5 8 13 24 35 18
Hamilton 25 3 2 20 18 8

Gilbert stuns McEnroe to reach quarterfinals

CHICAGO, Feb 11, (AP): Brad Gilbert pulled off three service breaks with blistering passing shots yesterday and upset third-seeded John McEnroe 6-4, 6-3 in the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 Volvo Chicago tennis tournament.

Earlier, 16-year-old Michael Chang withdrew with tendinitis in his right leg, advancing Argentina's Horacio de la Pena to the semifinals and defending champion Tim Mayotte, the No. 4 seed, overpowered No. 8 Andre Gomez 6-3, 6-1.

Leave

Chang upset second-seeded Jimmy Connors on Thursday.

It was the second free pass for De la Pena in the six-day event. He won by default against Aaron Krickstein, who had to withdraw Wednesday due to tendinitis in the right elbow.

Gilbert broke McEnroe in the third game of the opening set at love. McEnroe also lost his serve in the fifth game of the second set to fall behind 3-2, then dropped his serve again to end the match.

Gilbert, ranked 20th in the world, was to face De la Pena in one of today's semifinals.

McEnroe, who suffered only

his second loss to Gilbert — the first came in the Masters tournament in New York in January 1986, leading to McEnroe's self-imposed six-month sabbatical from the sport — had a chance to break Gilbert's serve in the sixth game. But Gilbert slammed one of his five aces and capitalised on two bad McEnroe service returns.

Gilbert ended the 75-minute match by breaking McEnroe in the ninth game at love. He won the first three points with crisp passing shots, then finished off the left-hander by driving a ball at his feet.

Mayotte needed 63 minutes to dispose of Gomez.

In the opening set, Gomez fell behind 1-2, losing his serve at love on Mayotte's overpowering forehand drives. But, Gomez broke back in the fourth game, only to lose his serve again in the fifth game.

Mayotte won the set when he broke Gomez again.

In the second set, Mayotte raced to a 3-0 advantage before Gomez could hold serve in the fourth game. Mayotte then took over, blasting Gomez with his hard shots to advance to the semifinals.

Jarryd moves into final

ROTTERDAM, Feb 11, (Reuters): Seventh seed Anders Jarryd of Sweden won through to the final of the \$442,500 Rotterdam Grand Prix tennis tournament with an easy 6-2 6-4 victory over sixth-seeded Australian Darren Cahill today.

Cahill, the first Australian to reach the semifinals here since 1983, opened the match with an ace but then lost his first service game as Jarryd moved nimbly round the carpet court producing an array of top-spin passing shots.

During the second set the 23-year old Cahill began to find his

rhythm but in the end Jarryd proved the stronger.

Tomorrow Jarryd, who last reached the final here in 1986 when he lost to fellow-Swede Joakim Nyström, will meet the winner of today's other semifinal between second-seeded Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland and third seed Yannick Noah of France.

Yesterday, Noah has declared himself against a tennis boycott of South Africa after the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) added an extra Grand Prix tournament in the republic next year.

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